Wheat and barley samples of the new crop indicate that we shall have considerable first class wheat, grading 1 Hard and 1 and 2 Nor, while the barley and oats will be up to the standard. From my observations in the country during my journeys I think the wheat this year is particularly clean. There is very little smut, and noxious weeds were killed by the rapid growth of the wheat during the latter end of July and early August.

This is Critical Crop Period.

Consequently, it would not be surprising if this year's sample surpasses even last year's, which was a record one. The lateness of the season undoubtedly gave good cause for anxiety, and a great number bought wheat in expectation of a heavy frost damage. Should frost come it will be between the 4th and 8th, the new moon period.

After that date we seldom have heavy frosts till October. In any event there is no danger of an entire freeze out, as the country has never had but small portions struck heavily by the same frost. Between the time of writing and my next letter is the most anxious period for the West, and if the weather is good until then, Western Canada will have a great year.

Prices of wheat have risen since August 1st. Even at that time I concluded that we were about our highest level for export, and that any rise that would come thereafter might be characterized as inflated or speculative values. No. 1 Nor. then sold at 91¾, following an upward tendency to 92¼, but having to react on August the 12th to 87½, at which point it would seem that the situation was grave, when about the 21st it reached 94 and acted as a see-saw until it eventually reached 95⅛ on August the 29th.

Speculation is Dominant Feature.

Yet it shows that it is practically a speculative market, with little or no wheat being shipped out of the country. The visible at Fort William and Port Arthur, which stood at 6¾ millions on the 1st of the month, now stands well over 7 millions. Last year at this date there was considerably less than a million bushels of wheat at these points, showing us that we were out of the market for export. Some time ago I concluded that our cash wheat would have to sell round 90c. or lower, for 1 Nor., and I expect this to take place whenever the new crop is on the market, or sooner.

Even then farmers will receive close on 20 cents more than they got on last year's crop at the early season. With the relative high prices of oats, barley, flax, and coarse grains, provided the present crop is harvested as it stands to-day, 15 millions or more cash will be received than was obtained from last year's crop.

Of the old crop there is still in hand a total visible of 21,500,000 bushels; from Winnipeg to Montreal, 9; in farmers' and milling companies' hands, 8; and 4½ million in private elevators and warehouses west of Winnipeg. All this I anticipate will go into next year, as little has been sold for export during the past week, and without lower prices I do not expect heavy export sales.

One Estimate of the Crop.

Adding 21½ million to an estimated crop of 85½ million gives us 107 million for our grain year from 1st September.

Mr. Frank W. Morse, vice-president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific has passed through the city on his way to the Pacific coast, where he will be joined by C. M. Hays, the president, and A. W. Smithers, the vice-president, and other directors of the company from England. Mr. Smithers arrived in Canada during the week, and this year takes the place of Sir Charles Redvers Wilson, the president, in the making of the annual inspection of the road.

Contracts have been let upon the road from Kitamaat to Hazelton, which have been awarded to Messrs. Foley Bros. and Lawson, and 200 miles of the prairie section extending west from Edmonton to 60 miles from the summit of the Rockies will be started this fall. Other contracts will be let early in the spring. Work is being pushed forward on the road with all possible speed.

Another Opinion of Money Scarcity.

The Hon. J. M. Sharples, of Quebec, president of the Union Bank, who was in the city on Saturday, was interviewed on the subject of the present financial position. Mr. Sharples attributed the present shortage to the world-wide financial stringency, and so far as Canada was concerned, to the unprecedented prosperity of the country.

He stated that the reason why the banks closed down so suddenly this spring was simply on account of the great demand which had been made for money, due to the great rapidity with which commercial enterprises in the West were increasing. The banks had loaned very large sums of money, and were compelled to close down because they found their money was almost out. Mr. Sharples, in conclusion, observed that the tightening in the money market was not due to abnormal development or to great speculation, but that the development has been quite regular, and applied to the East as well as to the West.

WESTERN GRAIN PROSPECTS.

A report on the condition of the crops in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, under date of 29th August, has been made to the Canadian Bank of Commerce by its Winnipeg manager. He says that owing to late seeding the crop is two to three weeks later maturing than last year. It is at present in fair condition, and with reasonably good weather for two to three weeks he estimates the result as follows:—

Wheat,—39,053,000 bushels; Alberta, 6,375 000 bushels; Saskatchewan, 35,383,000 bushels; total wheat in three provinces, 80,811,000 bushels.

Oats.—Manitoba, 36,407,000 bushels; Alberta, 15,945,000 bushels; Saskatchewan, 24,453,000 bushels; total, oats, 76,806,000 bushels.

Barley,—Manitoba, 16,239,000 bushels; Alberta, 2,675,000 bushels; Saskatchewan, 1,829,000 bushels; total barley, 20,743,000 bushels.

Estimated Values.

Wheat	80,811,000 bushels at 75 cents =	$60,614,000
Oats	76,806,000 bushels at 30 cents =	23,042,000
Barley	20,743,000 bushels at 35 cents =	7,260,000
Total		$90,916,000

Should unfavorable weather prevail, the report adds, a large crop of low grade grain will be saved, but values will probably be reduced twenty-five per cent. The above figures are compiled after considerable personal inspection and information received from upwards of five hundred correspondents.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr. T. J. Honeywell, of the Union Bank staff at Cypress River, is spending his holidays at Carman, Man

Mr. Q. C. Lusted, agent for the Bank of Hamilton at Swan Lake, has been called to his home in Stonewall, Man., owing to the dangerous illness of a relative.

Mr. W. A. Hachaffie, the Winnipeg manager of the Bank of British North America, has resigned, owing to ill-health. Mr. H. B. McKenzie has been appointed manager pro tem.

Mr. Millar, president of the Royal Grain Commission, has left Indian Head for Winnipeg to meet the other members of the Commission in the work of preparing their report.

Mr. W. W. Watson, of the Bank of Nova Scotia, St. John's, Nfld., has been promoted to Winnipeg. He is succeeded by Mr. R. H. Anderson, from the Campbellton, N.B., branch.

Mr. K. W. Blackwell, president and managing director of the Montreal Steel Works Company, has resigned his position as managing director, but retains the presidency. Mr. Blackwell desires to be relieved of his most active work, and Mr. W. F. Angus will succeed him as general manager.

Mr. J. A. Padden continues as manager of the Bank of Montreal at St. John's, Nfld., and Mr. W. H. Crowdy, of the Royal Bank, remains as manager. Mr. Crowdy and his accountant, Mr. C. E. Meehan, have been associated together in St. John's for over a quarter of a century, both in the defunct Union Bank and in the Royal Bank.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The new municipal telephone system at Port Arthur is now in operation.

A proposal is on foot to build an electric line between Wallaceburg and Petrolea.

A new C.P.R. steamer will be built for the Pacific Coast service, to take the place of the "Princess Victoria."

The Royal Gas Engine Company is asking aid from Collingwood in establishing a foundry and general machine shop in that place.

The double-tracking of the Intercolonial Railway from Moncton to Painsec will cost about $300,000. The work is progressing very favorably.

It is reported that native silver and copper have been found on Michipicoten Island in Lake Superior, about fifteen miles from the "Soo."

Toronto Railway earnings for the week ending August 31st showed an increase of $7,455 over the same period last year. The total earnings were $84,658.

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission has quoted Hamilton a price of about $43 per light for street lighting. At present from $60 to $65 per year is paid for ordinary street lights, and $82 for magnetite lamps.