

strated the importance of careful preparation of the seed. Land not in good condition at seeding has not produced as thrifty crops as that better prepared. Crops on spring plowing are rather thin, and weeds have done noticeable damage. Conditions in the south-eastern portion of the province, owing to light rainfall in June, were much improved by rains in the early part of July. In some parts, crops have suffered from excess of moisture. Since seeding, weather conditions on the whole have blended to produce the best results. The amount of sunshine and the heat, which was often intense, have advanced the crops rapidly.

"Local conditions vary considerably, and the dates when harvesting will be commenced are variously estimated at from August 20th to September 15th, but with a continuance of the present bright, warm weather, a considerable portion of the wheat crop should be ripe by September 1st.

"The Bureau concludes that the condition of the grain crops of Saskatchewan gives no cause for alarm. Probably a small portion of the crop will not mature in time to escape the early frosts, and the yield per acre may, in some cases, be less than that of recent years; but, on the other hand, many correspondents report that the crops are in better condition at the present time than they were a year ago."

Senator Perley writes from Wolsely, Sask., as follows:—

"It is true the crop is a bit later than last year, but I have no doubt but what it will mature all right. Those farmers who had prepared the seed bed and got the seed sown as soon as the climatic conditions would admit, will be all O.K. Grain is now headed out and by the 5th of September it will be ready for the binder. I have seen seasons when there was no frost till the 23rd of September, and several with no damaging frost till after the 15th. We shall not have long to wait now: six weeks will tell the tale. There will be a lot of good and a lot of poor wheat this year, but not over 60 per cent. of last year's production."

ALBERTA.

Senator Peter Talbot, of Lacombe, writes:—

"In Northern Alberta, conditions since seeding have been very favorable. We have had plenty of rain and very nice weather. All crops have made remarkable growth and we are counting on having a good yield, in fact, one of the best we have ever had, and if the present warm weather continues, the harvest will be as early or earlier than usual. We may have some local hail storms, and it is possible that an early frost may come our way, but we feel about as safe as ever we did.

"As far as I can learn, Southern Alberta also has a good prospect and so has the north country along the C.N.R.

"I was talking yesterday with Dr. Denovan of Red Deer, who has just returned from a trip to the Lesser Slave Lake country. He speaks in glowing terms of that part of Alberta. The crops there are further on than here.

"In my opinion the West is O. K. We shall have no general failure of

crops. If eastern capitalists have half as much confidence in the country as we have, the present stringency in money will soon let up."

Mr. E. L. Richardson, secretary of the Board of Trade, Calgary, writing August 2nd, reports that a recent trip to Winnipeg revealed the fact that the crops in Alberta were much further advanced than in Manitoba and further ahead than those of Saskatchewan. The crops in Southern Alberta are a week or ten days, or possibly more, ahead of those in the northern part of the province. "Some fields of barley and fall wheat, in the south are already beginning to turn, and prospects indicate an exceedingly good crop this year, although in the north, if we should get much early frost, it would no doubt do quite a bit of damage.

"The Department of Agriculture has just issued a statement showing the acreage and yield of the various grain crops sown in Alberta this year, compared with those sown last year. The yields given are as follows: Spring wheat, 1906, 23.65 bush, 1907 22.13 bush; winter wheat, 1906, 20.77 bush; 1907, 22.07 bush; oats, 1906, 44.30 bush, 1907, 37.23 bush; barley, 1906, 26.45 bush, 1907, 28.92 bush."

OUR WINNIPEG CORRESPONDENT.

The Farming World's special correspondent at Winnipeg, a most reliable authority, carefully sums up the situation in the following letter, dated July 31:

"I spent a week with the farmers at Winnipeg fair and four days at the Brandon fair. I talked with men from every section of the country. The majority of them were men engaged in mixed farming, and I have always found their views of crops more sane and reliable than those of men engaged purely in wheat-growing. All the information I can gather is summed up as follows:—

"The crop is an exceedingly spotted one, the most spotted crop ever grown in the Canadian West, hence the difficulty of arriving at anything like a uniform estimate. In Southern Manitoba the crop will be very light and thousands of acres have been plowed up, because, by July 15th, they had not attained a growth of more than six inches. Ten bushels to the acre for the greater part of Southern Alberta is, I fancy, a fair estimate. Along the main line somewhat the same conditions prevail, but throughout Northwestern Manitoba, now a great area of cultivation, the whole of Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta, the crop is almost uniformly good and is generally headed out, but is anywhere from two weeks to three weeks late, according to the locality. The weather is fine and now there has been sufficient rain, but there is not the intense heat there should be to bring the grain along. Only three

years of the twenty-five I have been in the West have we entirely escaped August frost, though of course many times the damage has been so slight as to be unnoticed. In 1888 we had a killing frost as early as August 8th, but usually the frost has been between the 14th and the 22nd, or just about the full of the August moon. This year the full comes on the 23rd. If we get a frost early in August this year, it will mean very nearly a crop failure. If it comes in August at all, or indeed before the 10th of September, it will do damage just in proportion to the date at which it comes. In the years when there was no frost in August, the warm weather continued unbroken until the 8th or 9th of September, and if these conditions should prevail this year, I think it is quite safe to estimate a yield of 15 bushels to the acre on 4,750,000 acres."

Will Discriminate Against Fat Hogs

Our attention has been drawn to a recent circular issued by the Wm. Davies Co. to the drovers employed by them in collecting and shipping live hogs. We desire to offer our congratulations to this firm for the decisive way in which they seek to correct a growing evil in their business. It is plainly impossible to produce good bacon from inferior live hogs. Our contention has always been that the purchaser by proper and decided discrimination could exercise a very distinct influence on the output.

The moment the farmer discovers that a certain class is discriminated against sufficiently to make him feel it, that moment he will decide on making a change either in breeding or feeding or both as the case demands. But so long as all classes command the same money in the market there it no incentive towards the best production. While there are some who take pleasure in producing only one class and that "The Best" and will produce it regardless of the added profit, yet we regret to say these form an infinitesimal part of the whole.

When as the circular states the unfinished or over-weighted live hog will only be taken at \$1.00 per cwt. less than the more desirable class, their numbers will very soon decrease. No amount of talk in an educational way would have any considerable influence so long as the price was not reduced. We are sure, therefore, that we voice the view of the majority of producers when we say to The Davies Co., well done. Producers will undoubtedly approve of their action.

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