

Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

The third crop report issued by the Free Press on May 8, showed the wheat crop all seeded, and already showing 1" to 4". While the West had suffered from heavy and almost continuous winds for fully two weeks before the report was received, the amount of re-seeding required, due to the drifting of soil, was less than was expected.

In all, 177 points in the three provinces were heard from and practically the only undesirable feature, was the absence of rain. 30 points out of 65 in Manitoba reported rain badly needed, and only four said that rain was not needed. In Saskatchewan, 91 points were heard from. Eight reported that rain was badly needed; 28 that rain needed; and 19 that rain would be welcome, the balance stated that no rain was required. Alberta is best off in the matter of moisture, as out of 21 points heard from, only two state that rain is badly needed; 5 points state that it is needed and eight that it would be welcome.

Many points state that the sub soil had moisture enough, but what was needed was rain to stimulate growth and prevent drifting. Since the report came in there have been a number of heavy showers reported.

The actual seeding of wheat is fully three weeks ahead of last year, but as the weather has been pretty cool, the actual growth is not as far ahead as that would indicate. In Manitoba about 70 per cent of the oats are in and 50 per cent of the barley, while in Saskatchewan, only 30 per cent of the oats are in, and possibly 30 per cent of the barley, of course, little flax is as yet seeded.

With regard to the increased acreage. In Manitoba 30 points report no increase in wheat, 29 points report increases from 5 per cent to 25 per cent, while a few points state that there was a decrease. The increases in Manitoba are mainly in the northern part of the province, where previously oats have been the principle crop, and 25 per cent increase in wheat acreage from these districts would not mean any very large area. In Saskatchewan, however, the increase for the entire province will probably be 20 per cent, possibly even a little more. Out of 91 points heard from, only 8 reported no increase, others report increases all the way from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. In Alberta there will be practically as great an increase. There will apparently not be much increase in acreage seeded to oats and barley, but there will be undoubtedly a heavy increase in flax, much of it going in on newly-broken land. Col. E. R. Wayland, who came out on special leave from England to look after the distribution of a quantity of fibre flax seed for the British Government, left yesterday to rejoin the Canadian Forces in France. Before doing so, he stated that all of the seed had been very satisfactorily placed. About 30,000 acres of the flax will be seeded in the Canadian West and about 1,000 bushels in the Province of Ontario.

RYE.

There is a very considerable increase in acreage seeded to winter rye in the Fall of 1917. It is rather the irony of fate, that where it was put in on well-cultivated summerfallow, very much of it has been winter killed, but where it was put in in stubble, it is doing fine. This is, of course, due to the very light snowfalls along the southwestern portion of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where many large areas are located. The stubble had the tendency to hold the snow and afford the protection. The winter killed areas are being re-seeded to Spring rye, and this means a very considerable amount of spring rye all over Manitoba and to some extent in Saskatchewan. The starting of the rye mill at Winnipeg having a stimulating effect. It is mainly going in in districts which suffered from drought last year, as farmers have found that rye will stand dry weather better than wheat. It is probable that even a greater acreage would have been seeded if seed could have been obtained, but it is very scarce. Rye has sold as high as \$2.41 a bushel, but has recently suffered a severe slump, dropping back to \$2.00. It has been recommended that the Board of Food Control or the Canadian Board of Grain Supervisors fix the price of rye. Millers claim that in order to make rye flour that will sell on an even basis with wheat flour, rye should not be more than \$2.00 a bushel. At the present time rye flour retails in Winnipeg at 3 lbs. for 25 cents, while the new Government Standard flour is only slightly over 6 cents a pound.

The flour hogs are being made to disgorge, and it is very amusing. People are returning the flour and the grocer does not want to take it back, and the miller does not want to take it from the grocer, however, the Food Control Board has stated its order, and it is claimed that they intend to have all of the hoard that it is possible to secure. The latest returns show that 189,000 barrels over and above the ordinary sales, were made in the West in the three weeks which intervened between the announcement of the Standard flour and its coming into force. A great deal of this flour is in the hands of aliens, many of them alien enemies, and the general belief is that the Royal North-West Mounted Police are the only people who will ever secure it from them.

MILLS TO GIVE UP WHEAT.

The Board of Grain Supervisors have been very busy during the week also, and orders have been flying like hail. On Wednesday orders were issued

TO FORCE FARMERS TO RELEASE WHEAT.

Winnipeg, May 8.

The Board of Grain Supervisors for Canada issued to-day a series of orders, numbers 37 to 43 inclusive, dealing with the shipment of wheat to flour mills in Canada. Order No. 43 reads:

"1—That no flour mill in Canada shall receive into their mills, west of the Great Lakes, any wheat, without securing permit from the Board of Grain Supervisors for Canada.

"2—That no permit will be given to any mill that has on hand sufficient wheat to keep it in operation for ten days.

"This order is in effect from May 10, inclusive."

In a series of six orders, the Board of Grain Supervisors then orders the shipment of various quantities of wheat from elevators to mills, and the interchange of other quantities of wheat, representing excess stocks, between various mills, all in Western Canada.

The exact amounts of wheat to be shipped are specified, and the time limit in which shipments must be made. The disposition of 1,196,000 bushels is regulated in all.

to a number of millers stipulating the amount of wheat that they must ship before the 24th of May. In the case of the Western Canada Flour Mills and Ogilvie's, this amount was, 400,000 bushels each. Other mills were ordered to ship smaller quantities. No mill can now buy a bushel of wheat without the permission of the Board, and no permission will be given if the mill has ten days' grinding on hand. On the whole, the millers are accepting this order in very good spirit. A more difficult task that the Grain Supervisors have on hand is that of getting from the farmers the balance of the wheat. They have asked for additional power from the Government, and it is very probable that any wheat found in farmer's hands after June 1st, will be commandeered and also that it will be commandeered at a lower price. The wheat like the flour, is much in the hands of aliens, and a careful investigation has revealed that some of this wheat belongs to the crop of 1915.

LIVESTOCK.

The livestock market has been running wild this week, and prices for well-fed steers went up to 17 cents a pound. The receipts of really choice stock are small and there is a keen demand.

NOT NEEDED IN U.S.

Washington, May 8.

Supplement its previous announcements of February 19 and March 21, the War Trade Board, after consultation with the United States Department of Agriculture, to-day announced that on and after May 6, 1918, exporters to Canada of corn to be used for any purpose will not be required to present to the Collector of Customs a grain inspection certificate endorsed by a federal grain supervisor, as required in former announcements.

No change has been made in the rule requiring that all applications for licences to export corn for any purpose to Canada must be accompanied by a Canadian import licence permitting the consignee named in the application to import the quantity specified therein.

Exporters should not apply for an export licence until they have received from the prospective importer such import licence, which should be securely pasted on the back of the application for an export licence.

LAST WEEK'S REVIEW OF ACTIVE MONTREAL STOCKS.

Sales.	Stocks.	Open.	—Month—		Last	Net	—Year—	
			High.	Low.			High.	Low.
1,292	Ames Holden	19	22½	19	22	+3	22½	15
595	Do. pfd.	57	58½	57	58	+½	58½	47
435	Brazilian	33½	36	33½	36	+2½	40	32
2,416	Brompton	52½	54½	52½	54½	+1½	54½	41½
162	Can. Car	31½	31½	30	30	—2	32½	18½
245	Do. pfd.	77½	77½	77½	77½	+½	78½	49½
1,868	Can. Cement	60	60½	59½	60½	+¾	61	*57
182	Do. pfd.	*90	*90	*90	*90	unch.	91	90
217	Can. Loco.	58	59½	58	59½	+1½	59½	58
165	Can. Steamship	40	40	39½	39½	—¼	43½	39½
176	Do. pfd.	76	76	76	76	unch.	78½	76
310	Can. Smelting	25	25	25	25	unch.	26	25
209	Dom. Cannery	29	30	29	30	+1½	30	23½
260	Dom. Iron pfd.	90	90	90	90	unch.	91½	88
7,411	Dom. Steel	60½	63½	60½	62½	+2½	63½	*53
1,708	Dom. Textile	87½	91½	87½	91½	+3½	91½	80½
415	Laurentide	165	165½	165	165½	+1½	165½	152
1,125	Lyall	76	79	76	78	+3	79	*62
410	Maple Leaf	97½	98	97½	98	+1	98	*95
587	Mont. Power	*76	*76½	*76½	*76½	+½	80½	68½
855	Quebec Ry.	18	19	18	18½	+2½	19½	15
1,085	Riordon	122	123	120	120½	unch.	123	117½
395	Shawinigan	112	112	112	112	unch.	116½	*107
385	Spanish River	15½	15½	14	14	—1½	16½	13
135	Do. pfd.	51	51	51	51	—1	53½	50
10,330	Steel of Can.	60	60	60	64½	+4½	65	*40½
1,057	Wabasso Cotton	30	40	30	39	+9	40	21
255	Wayagamack	50	50	50	50	—¼	50½	50
—BONDS—								
\$11,100	Can. Loan (1925)	94½	94½	94½	97½	unch.	95½	93½
8,390	Can. Loan (1931)	93½	93½	93½	93½	+¾	93½	92½
38,390	Can. Loan (1937)	93½	93½	93	93½	+¾	93½	91½
—UNLISTED SHARES—								
570	Can. Felt	6	6	6	6	+¾	6	5
255	Tram. Power	24	24	24	24	—¼	33	23½

*Ex-dividend.

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