

along this great main line that a failure in production has not yet been recorded. Feeders that feed at the rate of 30 to 45 bushels of wheat to the acre are the limbs that will yet bear fruit to such an extent as will make this main trunk line of C.N.R. one of the greatest grain carriers on the continent. Edmonton, the live city of Alberta, Vegreville, Vermilion, Lloydminster, North Battleford and thirty-four other live towns have sprung into existence since the Canadian Northern started to serve their communities in 1905. These are the towns you get off at if you are interestd in the grain and live stock industry, and around each you will find satisfied settlers, bankers, brokers and commercial men who have the same confidence in their respective districts as Wm. Mackenzie and D. D. Mann had when the end of their steel rails was a thousand miles to the eastward."

GOOD CROPS; FINE WEATHER; SATISFACTORY BUSINESS.

Central Alberta is Wheat Moving, Coal Mining and Making the Commercial Wheels Revolve—Scottish Agricultural Commission's Visit.

(From Monetary Times Staff Member.)

Edmonton, Alta., Oct. 12.

The more one sees of the resourceful Province of Alberta, the more one fails to grasp, and at the same time begins to realize its immense possibilities. That may be a paradox, but with hundreds of thousands of acres ahead, stretching the eye-sight into the realms of imagination, with millions of lignite coaltons beneath the feet, with fire clay here and lumber there, a sunny blue sky above and men shuffling Albertan dust in the cities and the country around, one is apt to become lost in the labyrinth of calculations.

Edmonton and Beyond.

If enthusiasm and the pioneer spirit counts for anything, twenty years from now the charts and maps, by which the average Canadian must perforce size up his country, will make pretty playthings for the children. Men are pushing out the twentieth century boundaries to the seas and to the beyond. Edmonton may think now that it is the last municipal lisp on the end of the North and Central land's tongue. Maybe; and maybe not for long. As to Edmonton's future—a city which planted down anywhere would be a creditable monument of enterprise—there can be no doubt. Its future is not bounded by the points of the compass; the limit is in the strength of men's minds, the brawniness of iron bar arms. But beyond must surely grow villages and towns; we will leave a city for the bolder prophet. This does not detract from Edmonton's position; it enhances it. A packing plant on its borders, coal under its homes, factories everywhere, are three signs that help to answer "Why?" Edmonton, Central Alberta, and the North—remember, twenty years hence the days of now.

Agricultural Commission Win Appreciation.

A word may be written here anent the Scottish Agricultural Commission who have recently travelled from coast to coast. Unwittingly perhaps, these gentlemen have won the high appreciation of Westerners from the Western metropolis onwards and outwards. "What would you like?" they have been asked; "a banquet, a drive, a trip through our bricks and mortar?" "No," was the invariable reply. "Show us your country." And it was so. The man from over the border—he will admit it—dearly loves a municipal junket or a gay little dance mixed up with his observations. Pie and the piano seem to help mould the mind for impressions—that is in some cases.

But the Scotch Commission were out entirely for business. An empty stomach and a full box of information never became troublous or even rebellious. They asked questions, too, those kinds that make a man feel another will follow if the answer has not been carefully sawn and planed, and chiselled and spirit-levelled. They buttonholed the farmer, looked at his machinery, observed the results it and brain had brought from the soil. They fisted the big bellies of the live stock and then plucked a handful of prairie grasses, considering the relation of the one to the other. Civic statistics, figures as to matrimonial matches, brand newcomers into the world, and the effect of atmosphere on vitality troubled them little. The celerity of the fire brigade may have excited interest; but beneath that "Will ye no show us how ye yoke the fire horses?" could be detected thoughts of bushels to the acre, pounds to the beast, coal tons to the hour. If any body of men can intelligently, widely and conservatively advertise these Canadian resources of ours, permit the Scotch Agricultural Commission to take

first place with honours. Their official report will be awaited with keen interest. Its good results can be but vaguely determined. Their influence will be felt as much in ten years' as in one year's time.

News of the Crops.

The crops in the central and northern country have turned out fairly well. Frost damage has occurred in many districts, and in some instances it was severe. Taking the aggregate, the crops may be labelled good. Of oats, there is a great abundance, and of excellent grade. Some splendid yields are recorded in various parts of the country.

Business conditions both here, in Calgary and in the towns of the district are decidedly encouraging. A banker told me the other day that general business in Edmonton was from ten to twenty per cent. better than during this month last year. Naturally, there is no rush, but all the signs point to a substantial commercial foundation for the coming years.

Weather conditions have been ideal. A little snow fell around here recently, but the short cold spell about this time is usually a part of the climate programme. The Indian summer now sheds its sunny rays over the country. Then will come the health and nation-building winter.

MOVEMENT OF THE CROP.

The increased yield is not the only way in which this year's crop has the advantage over that of 1907. The three weeks gained at seeding time were maintained up to the harvest. Although one of the grain carrying railroads systems has been working under difficulties, the transportation movement has so far been infinitely freer than last year, the number of cars arriving at Winnipeg being often not far short of one thousand a day. The results are seen in the following table, showing the number of cars and quantities of grain inspected at Winnipeg during the three weeks ended September 21st, with comparisons for the same period of last year:—

	1907.		1908.	
	Cars.	Bushels.	Cars.	Bushels.
Wheat	779	817,950	6,530	6,856,500
Oats	136	244,800	281	505,800
Barley	65	78,000	305	366,000
Flaxseed	5	5,000	15	15,000
Speltz.....	985	1,145,750	7,131	7,743,000

The total receipts of grain at Fort William and Port Arthur during the three weeks was 3,252,156 bushels, and the shipments 1,618,687 bushels. Of these totals, wheat represented 2,948,808 and 1,353,300 bushels.

OGILVIE FLOUR MILLS COMPANY.

Although \$120,000 less profits were earned by the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company last year than in the previous twelve months, the report presented at the annual meeting held at Montreal last week is especially satisfactory in view of the fact that the period with which it has to deal was a singularly unpropitious one for the milling business. The quantity of high grade wheat available was very limited, resulting in a curtailment of export. Added to this was the general depression, of which the mills were burdened with a full share.

The trading profits for the year ended August 31st last amounted to \$511,473. This, after payment of fixed charges leaves a surplus equal to 22¼ per cent. on the company's preference stock. The dividend on the \$2,000,000 preferred is thus covered three-fold, and when the full 7 per cent. has been deducted there is a surplus available on the common stock of £305,957. This is equal to 12.23 per cent. earned on that stock. After providing \$100,000 to the property reserve account, and \$10,000 to the officers' pension fund there is a balance to carry forward to the credit of profit and loss account of \$257,263.

The amount of cash on hand is shown at \$597,282, compared with \$170,001 at the end of the previous year, the increase being \$427,280. In the earlier period the company owed the Bank of Montreal \$1,453,214.63. This has been wiped out entirely. Current liabilities outside those of the bank were \$275,310.19 in 1907 and only \$148,759.04, in 1908, a decrease of \$126,551.15 in the twelve months. Open accounts and bills receivable show a decrease of \$610,812.20. Merchandise stocks have been reduced from \$1,154,164 to \$656,969.43. There was an increase in the amount of bonds outstanding from \$1,000,000 to \$1,750,000.

The following were re-elected directors of the company for the ensuing year:—Mr. C. R. Hosmer, president; Mr. F. W. Thompson, vice-president and managing director; Sir George A. Drummond, K.C.M.G.; Sir H. Montagu Allan, Mr. E. S. Clouston, Mr. H. S. Holt, Mr. Shirley Ogilvie, Mr. W. A. Black was appointed general manager of the Western Division, and Mr. F. H. Anson, general superintendent.