

What Western Farmers are Doing

(Written for the Journal of Commerce by Miss E. CORA HIND, Winnipeg)

A few years ago a very clever French engineer was sent from Paris, France, to Duluth, to witness the laying of concrete under water, under some unusual conditions. He was the guest of the city of Duluth and the city fathers sought to do him proud and duly escorted him forth to see the five million bushel Peavy elevator, the two million ton ore, and the million ton coal dock, and a few other of the great enterprises which mark the progress of the city that is twenty miles long and two miles wide and a mile high. The Frenchman after two days sarcastically inquired of the mayor if they had any measure smaller than a million? On his return to France he reported the city father of Duluth as the biggest liars on earth.

If this Frenchman is not too busy fighting the Germans he should visit Western Canada in this year of grace, 1915, and then he would see the million an every day measure.

Here are a few of the millions:—

From September 1 to December 1, the west shipped 184,848,525 bushels of all grain, and the actual market value of that shipment, each grade made up at the prices for the day, was \$151,940,016.43. Figures for December are not yet available, but they will no doubt show a movement of at least 50,000,000 bushels of all grain, and prices have been higher than for the three previous months. Then there is at least 60,000,000 more to come, so that by the time the crop of 1915 is all sold the west will have received at least \$250,000,000 for its four principal grain crops, to say nothing of the amount of grains fed on the farms or of wheat ground in the small country mills and not included in the inspections.

Livestock.

The livestock bill is a big one also. Figures for December are not yet compiled, but for the eleven months ending November 30, Winnipeg Union stock yards handled 130,630 cattle; 422,426 hogs, 12,984 sheep and 5,986 horses. Calgary yards handled 38,397 cattle, 195,237 hogs, 29,372 sheep and 7,031 horses. Putting the cattle at \$60 per head, which is conservative; hogs at \$13, sheep at \$6, and horses at \$160, gives a grand total value for these two markets of \$19,539,910. To this can be added the figures from Edmonton, not yet to hand, and all the beef and pork consumed locally without leaving first hands. Cattle receipts at Winnipeg show 11 months to exceed 12 months of 1914 by 20,176 head; hogs for 11 months some 39,463 under total for 12 months last year.

Dairy Production.

The end of the creamery year comes October 31 so that it is possible to give more complete figures. Increase for 1915 is very marked in all three prairie provinces. Here are the figures:

| | 1915. | | | 1914. | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|---------------|-----------|-------|-------------|
| | Pounds | Price | Value | Pounds | Price | Value |
| Dairy butter | 4,150,444 | 23c | \$ 958,185.76 | 3,889,000 | 22.5c | \$ 875,025 |
| Creamery | 5,839,667 | 29c | 1,693,503.43 | 4,761,355 | 26.5c | 1,261,759 |
| Cheese | 726,725 | 15c | 109,008.75 | 471,355 | 14 c | 65,989 |
| Total | 10,716,836 | | 2,760,697.94 | 9,121,710 | | \$2,292,773 |
| Saskatchewan. | | | | | | |
| Creamery | 3,700,000 | 30.6c | \$1,018,100 | 4,425,000 | 28.7c | \$ 400,000 |
| Other products | | | 300,000 | | | 500,000 |
| Total | | | \$1,318,100 | | | \$900,000 |
| Alb. rta. | | | | | | |
| Creamery | 7,400,000 | 27½c | \$2,035,000 | 5,450,000 | 25 c | \$1,417,000 |
| Cheese | 372,693 | 15c | 55,904 | 70,000 | 14 c | 9,881 |
| Total | 7,772,693 | | \$2,090,904 | 5,520,000 | | \$1,416,881 |

From the above figures it will be noted that not only has there been a most remarkable increase in quantities, but prices have been better than last year, mainly due to the fact of governments insisting on graded cream.

From grain, livestock and dairy products the west has already had \$177,649,627 to say nothing of the returns from wool, poultry, eggs, root and hay crops, which would bring the total well over the \$200,000,000 mark, taking no account of all that is yet to come, and the fact that the West has been bountifully fed throughout the year. There are not more than 250,000 actual farmers in the three prairie provinces and certainly not more than 750,000 men, women and children residing on farms.

These figures are interesting, but they are not even the best of the returns from the farms this year. The West has made substantial progress in learning to do those things which she ought to do and leaving undone those things which she ought not to do. The most wonderful crop that has ever been grown has not occasioned the farmers to lose their heads and think only of growing wheat.

Saskatchewan, which suffered so severely from dried out crop in 1914, has steadily taken from the returns of the present crop to secure livestock. There has been less slipshod haphazard farming, and the whole West realizes that not even the abundant rains of the past season could have produced the enormous yields had it not been for the superior cultivation the land received. In spite of the tempting prices of the present year much less wheat will be seeded in 1916, simply because there was not time to properly prepare the land and farmers are not taking the chances they used to do.

No record of the farm products of the year 1915 would be complete without a word as to the service rendered by the railways in moving both crop and livestock.

With regard to crop movement, perhaps the most concrete method of visualizing it to the general reader is to state that for days at a time a train crew was called to take a grain train east from Winnipeg every twenty minutes during the twenty-four hours, and these trains contained from forty to fifty cars, with an average of 1,200 bushels per car if wheat, and 2,000 bushels if oats.

The movement in cars was amply supplemented by the outward handling from the big terminals, by that unique organization, the Lake Superior Seaway Association, which now holds the record of loading 9,000,000 bushels in twenty-four hours, and of averaging pretty close to 3,000,000 daily for the season, and of more than once loading 350,000 bushels in a boat and clearing her in three and a half hours.

It would be possible to go on writing columns of the big things of the West, but after all those who

are unfamiliar with millions find them difficult to grasp. The great, big, important, central fact is that she is preparing to proceed soberly and industriously on her way, and to urge her people to be real farmers and workers and not speculators.

Year's Stock Sales on Montreal Exchange

Despite the fact that the Montreal exchange was closed for a considerable portion of the year stock and bond sales show up well in comparison with other years.

General comparisons of the annual output of listed securities by years, since 1911, follow:—

| | Shares | Bonds. |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1915 | 1,536,573 | \$1,838,495 |
| 1914 | 1,087,926 | 2,778,860 |
| 1913 | 1,765,651 | 5,243,473 |
| 1912 | 2,262,094 | 6,180,690 |
| 1911 | 2,255,158 | 5,968,800 |

While general contrasts in respect to output in shares, in view of the limitations on trading early in the year, are not unsatisfactory, it may be noted that bond business was extremely dull throughout the year. The unlisted department yielded a total in bonds only \$50,000 less than the big market, and one bond, Cedars Rapids Power, with a turnover of \$928,830, was responsible for about 25 per cent of the total output in bonds listed and unlisted departments.

In more detail, including business in the unlisted department, comparisons for 1915 and 1914 follow:—

| | 1915. | 1914. |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Shares | 1,367,572 | 813,752 |
| Rights | 40,357 | 170,759 |
| Mines | 169,001 | 274,174 |
| Bonds | \$1,838,495 | \$2,778,360 |

UNLISTED DEPARTMENT

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Shares | 90,643 | 831,409 |
| Mines | 26,693 | 24,833 |
| Bonds | \$1,785,305 | \$960,070 |

Comparisons of the volume of business by months through 1915, grouping listed and unlisted securities in each case under the heads of shares, mines and bonds, are given in the following table:—

| Month. | Shares. | Mines. | Bonds. |
|-----------------|---------|--------|-----------|
| Jan. | 14,782 | 9,252 | \$178,300 |
| Feb. | 4,808 | 5,882 | 193,050 |
| March | 6,481 | 7,433 | 288,740 |
| April | 139,584 | 8,666 | 765,180 |
| May | 34,922 | 7,910 | 327,240 |
| June | 62,334 | 6,025 | 266,755 |
| July | 78,484 | 17,530 | 180,100 |
| Aug. | 220,581 | 27,633 | 219,270 |
| Sept. | 123,584 | 30,159 | 330,070 |
| Oct. | 814,521 | 15,118 | 340,320 |
| Nov. | 335,576 | 29,967 | 222,000 |
| Dec. | 124,558 | 30,119 | \$312,780 |

Totals 1,458,215 195,694 \$3,623,800

Royal Commission Report

Interesting information regarding the resources of the empire is given in a blue book containing the memorandum and table prepared by the Dominions Royal Commission on the food and raw material requirements of the United Kingdom, who visited Canada in the early part of 1914.

With regard to wheat, it shows that the percentage of total imports received from the empire rose from 29.4 per cent. in the period 1901 to 1905 to 69.4 per cent in the three years ended 1913. This large increase was, of course, mainly due to Canada.

As to future supplies, figures are given which show that, while in European and extra-European countries the increase in the wheat-growing area is proceeding at practically the same rate as the increase in population, in the British Empire the wheat area is developing far more rapidly, so the empire, as a whole, is becoming more self-supporting.

The total production of wheat within the empire, which was 227,500,000 cwts. in 1901, had risen to 293,700,000 cwts. in 1911, an increase of 75 per cent. In the same period the wheat area increased by 45.5 per cent., whereas the percentage of population rose by only 6.6 per cent.

With regard to meat, only in the case of pork, bacon and ham have the supplies from the Dominion shown a tendency to decline, but the Canadian export trade has materially decreased of late years. In fact, Canada now imports mutton from New Zealand for her own consumption.

All the dominions have in recent years devoted special attention to the increased production of fruit. Statistics are given which indicate that, in general, the producers of the United Kingdom have in recent years held their own in the production of food supplies.

RECOMMEND A LOTTERY.

Despairing of persuading British workingman to save and invest money in British war loan, several leading bankers in London have suggested to government advisability of a state lottery loan on lines of French lottery loans.

New Security Listings

The following securities were listed on the Montreal exchange during 1915.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Penna. Water & P. bonds | \$850,000 |
| Can. Rubber, pfd. stock | 1,020,000 |
| Price Bros., bonds | 199,533 |
| Shawinigan W. & P. e. stock | 1,237,500 |
| Carriage Fact., bonds | 500,000 |
| Do. common stock | 1,200,000 |
| Do. pfd. stock | 1,200,000 |
| Mont. Tramways, com. stock | 1,000,000 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Ont. Steel Prod., bonds | 600,000 |
| Do. com. stock | 750,000 |
| Do. pfd. stock | 750,000 |
| G. C. Fishing, stocks | 4,292,800 |
| Can. Forgings, bonds | 152,000 |
| Do. com. stock | 960,000 |
| Do. pfd. stock | 960,000 |
| N. S. Steel, com. stock | 1,500,000 |
| Cedars, Rapids, bonds | 10,809,000 |
| Do. com. stock | 8,900,000 |
| Total | \$36,881,633 |