

river to Lake Winnipeg, and in this connection furnishes some interesting information.

The Nelson river is described as about 400 miles in length, extending from Lake Winnipeg. It discharges an immense volume of water, deriving the same from the summit of the Rocky mountains, through the North and South Saskatchewan rivers and draining all the water of the province of Manitoba and an immense area of North Dakota, Minnesota and Western Ontario.

From Lake Winnipeg where these waters are gathered, to Hudson Bay the fall is set down at about 710 feet. Though not likely to come within the scope of practical consideration for many years, the possibility of the building of such a canal at some future time exists and it is undoubtedly wise to hold it in view in the selection of a terminal for any Hudson Bay railway. The possibility for ships utilizing this grand waterway for transport of goods and grains from the head of Manitoba to the great sea at the north and so to the ocean is an alluring one and altogether with other other developments of western river waters centering in Lake Winnipeg may some day form one of the engineering features of the progress of Canada's inland provinces.

### Ontario's Provincial Police

The Ontario government has taken steps to organize a more efficient police system for the province. Hon. J. J. Poy, Attorney-General for the province, has announced the following appointments in connection with the reorganization and consolidation of the Provincial Police Force:

Superintendent of Provincial Police, Inspector Joseph E. Rogers; Senior Inspector of Criminal Investigation, Inspector Wm. Greer; Inspector for the Northern Division, Chief George Coldbeck, of Cobalt; Inspector for the Southern Division, Chief Wm. H. Mains.

In making the announcement the Minister explained that it was the desire to instal some systematic method in the administration of justice throughout the province, operated from a central and judicial authority.

"At present", he says, "the member for the riding undertakes to say when a policeman is necessary. This is neither right nor wise, and it is proposed to put the work on a businesslike basis. The department is deluged with applications for policemen. The new force will do work for all the Departments of Government. The members will co-operate in the enforcement of the license and game laws."

### Exporter on Wheat Situation

James Carruthers, of Montreal, the well known grain exporter, was in the West last week and gave his views on the wheat situation. He expects wheat to go higher very soon, basing his opinion on world conditions in supply and demand. Mr. Carruthers said:

"I feel that wheat prices are bound for higher levels. I base my belief on a number of points which are now affecting the market. European stocks are at a low ebb. Prices have been so high for the past two years that foreigners have accumulated no surplus but have only taken enough wheat to satisfy immediate demands.

"Now, in spite of manipulation, wheat prices eventually come to a supply and demand basis and that is the prime factor we must look at to determine the future trend of the market. The Argentine crop will play a great part.

"We have seen during the past week what damage reports from that country will do to prices. They have been responsible for a big bulge. Should these reports be substantial later, it will have a living effect.

"Then another thing, look at the situation in the States. Europe figured on being able to get a big lot of wheat from below the line. But it does not look at present as if they were going to get much. Prices there are at least six cents higher than those which would make the grain available for export. Yet premiums on cash wheat keep well above the December option with no signs of breaking. This means that Europe will have to come to Canada for her supply and eventually put our prices higher."

### Railway Owned Demonstration Farms

The idea is growing among railway managements in the United States that it is good business on the part of the railways to have demonstration farms located at convenient points along their line. A number of Western railways first adopted the practice, and it paid. The agricultural possibilities of the land in each locality were demonstrated. The farms helped those farmers to farm better who were located near them and were the best advertisement possible for the district to attract to it outsiders who demanded to be shown what the soil would do before they invested any money in it.

Thus far Canadian railroads have not assumed such responsibility as this in the opening up of the country, but the success that has attended the venture on the other side, considered with the larger possibilities offering here to carry on the same work, may induce our railroads in time to take this

kind of hand in developing the country. Railways with as much farm land as some of our lines have would benefit most largely anyway from anything that would increase the number of farmers or lead to improved farming methods.

W. C. Brown, president of the New York Central lines, speaking recently on the question of railway owned demonstration farms, said:

"I am going to recommend to the owners of the roads with which I am connected, the purchase of farms, to be operated as experimental farms, according to the most advanced methods of seed selection, fertilization and cultivation, at the expense of the road, but under the auspices of the agricultural college of the state in which the farm is located. If this recommendation is adopted I shall hope to see it followed by a majority of the roads of the country. This system would multiply farms and multiply prosperous farmers, because eighty acres intelligently tilled will produce as much as 160 acres produce under our present slack and ignorant methods.

### Is Montreal Losing Grain Trade?

The *New York Herald*, in a recent editorial gloats over the fact that American ports are getting Montreal's grain export trade, because the insurance rates on grain cargoes are 20 per cent. less than those on freight from Montreal. New York, Boston and Portland are said to be getting a larger share of the Canadian grain trade this season than last the cheaper rates from Montreal being offset by the fact that insurance on cargoes is less. Western grain exporters are thus profiting nothing from the fact that Montreal is the logical outlet for Western grain, nor from the cheaper rates offered on cargoes from that port, and indirectly, the extra cost of insurance via the St. Lawrence route, is being borne by grain producers. In this connection the construction of proper dry docks on the St. Lawrence is being advocated, together with such improvements to the route as will reduce insurance rates to normal figures. As the matter stands at present Montreal has natural advantages as a grain port that should make the cost of shipments via the St. Lawrence less than via any port on the American coast, but these advantages are offset by the marine insurance companies holding cargoes up for higher insurance rates. The matter is one that directly concerns grain growers in Western Canada.

### Saskatchewan Agricultural Report

The fourth annual report of the Department of Agriculture of Saskatchewan covers the work of the department during 1908, and includes the reports of the deputy commissioner of agriculture, chief of the bureau of information and statistics, superintendent of fairs and institutes, superintendent of dairying, chief weed inspector, bacteriologist, provincial health officer, Saskatchewan Stock Breeders' Association and brand recorder. With these are included addresses delivered in different parts of the province by institute speakers, the minister of agriculture, deputy commissioner and others. The complete report makes a fair sized volume and is the latest and most authoritative word on agriculture in Saskatchewan. We presume it is for general distribution, having been printed by the order of the Legislative Assembly, and every farmer in the province should write the Department of Agriculture, Regina, and secure a copy. Agricultural literature is none too plentiful in this country, and when a department of agriculture compiles as much information on live-stock, grain growing, dairying, and poultry raising as is contained in the volume under review, farmers owe it to themselves to possess a copy. The report contains but one illustration, that of the late deputy commissioner of agriculture, A. P. Ketchen, B. S. A., who held office from October 1, 1906, until June 26, 1908. An obituary notice testifies to the esteem in which the late deputy commissioner was held, and gives a brief sketch of his career.

### Making Lumber from Straw

According to reports in American papers a New York man, who has been experimenting in making lumber out of straw, has been successful, and at a meeting of farmers held recently in North Dakota he exhibited lumber made from straw that appeared as hard as hardwood. At this meeting the inventor of straw lumber told farmers that he would soon be in a position to buy straw at \$5.00 a ton and manufacture lumber from it at a cost of from \$15 to \$20 per thousand feet, a ton of straw, according to him, making 2,000 feet of quarter-inch lumber. He claimed that a plant capable of manufacturing 75,000 feet per day would cost from \$250,000 to \$300,000. He said the lumber was worth \$60 a thousand. Dakota farmers are being urged to form a company for the manufacture of the product.

### Annual Meeting of Industrial Fair

The annual meeting of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association was held November 17. The annual report showed a surplus of \$2,000. Election of officers resulted as follows: A. A. Andrews, Dr. Chas. Little, Wm. Brydon, A. C. McRae, D. C. Cameron, J. McDiarmid, F. W. Drewry, I. M. Ross, W. Sanford Evans, H. G. Spurgeon, A. A. Gilroy, D. E. Sprague, G. H. Greig, H. Sutherland, C. W. Graham, W. Whyte, G. F. Galt.

### Draft Horse Prices in Various Markets

In American markets heavy horses have been selling off for some time. In Chicago fancy drafters are quoted at from \$250 to \$275, but these prices are for extra choice animals. The American demand is rather narrow just at present, with little prospect of improving until the beginning of the new year.

In Eastern Canadian centers a fair demand exists for draft horses. Good drafters are ranging from \$180 to \$225. A good share of the horses selling in Toronto is being taken by dealers in Western Canada. Dray companies and certain of the larger commercial houses in Winnipeg have been purchasing freely at these figures in the East for some time. General purpose horses are quoted in Toronto at \$150 to \$170, and lighter animals for express or wagon use at \$150 to \$190.

The regular season for the horse dealer in the West opens in about a month, when the market situation will be reviewed weekly in our regular market page. The outlook at present is for a more active demand than prevailed a year ago, and demand for draft horses in the winter and spring of 1909 was a record one. Prices are expected to rule higher for sound draft and general purpose horses, but they must be in selling condition to bring the best figure.

### Manitoba Grain Shows

The programme of seed fairs and grain shows to be held under the auspices of the Agricultural Societies in Manitoba is now well under way. The first one was held at Morris on November 15. Others now arranged are: Dec. 8th, Swan River; Dec. 10th, Swan Lake; Dec. 14th, Strathclair; Dec. 14th, Carman; Dec. 15th, Morden; Jan. 5th, Deloraine; Jan. 6th, Cartwright.

Arrangements have been made to have the grain judged in the morning of the date of the show, the afternoon being devoted to a discussion of live topics of interest to farmers. The prize winners will be called upon to give a short talk, explaining the method adopted in producing their prize-winning samples. Speakers will be present at each meeting to deliver addresses on various phases of farm work.

### Saskatchewan Seed Fairs

Arrangements have been made to hold seed fairs in Saskatchewan on the following dates: Grenfell, Nov. 24 and 25; Mortlach, Nov. 30; Francis, December 9; Stoughton and Milestone, December 10; Arcola, Alameda and Prince Albert, December 11; South Qu'Appelle, Fort Qu'Appelle, Oxbow and Carlton, December 14; Indian Head, Foam Lake and Duck Lake, December 15; Dubac and Rosthern, December 16; Yorkton, December 17; Saltcoats, December 18; Churchbridge, December 20; Vonda, December 22; Provincial Show at Regina, January 25 to 28, 1910.

### Events of the Week

A fierce gale of wind accompanied by snow centered over Lakes Superior and Huron from November 14 to 16, and did considerable damage to shipping. Three steamers are reported lost, one of which was the "Ottawa," loaded with 112,000 bushels of wheat. Her crew of 22 men managed to escape in the boats.

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One of the worst disasters in the history of coal mining in the United States occurred at Cherry, Ill., on the afternoon of November 13. The loss of life is estimated at from 300 to 500. Fire started in the mule stables and rapidly spread to the main shafts of the mine, rendering it impossible for those on lower levels to escape. The miners were smothered by smoke like rats in a trap. Their bodies were found about the base of the main shaft around which they had clustered in hope of succor. It was seven days after the fire before the flames were sufficiently under control to permit removal of the bodies.

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The gravity of the political situation in England was realized last week when the House of Lords made the move which means rejection by that body of the Lloyd-George Budget, the probable resignation of the Asquith Government, and ensured for a certainty an early election, perhaps the stormiest election ever held in England. The Lords will reject the Budget, that much is certain. In doing so they will raise some grave constitutional questions. If the Upper House has authority to veto the financial measures of the Commons, democracy in Britain will have received a setback and the authority of those who rule by hereditary right instead of by the suffrage of the people, will have been emphasized. Within the past six weeks, according to unbiased observers in England, there has been a most remarkable change in the popular mind. Labor men, socialists, radicals and advanced liberals are talking republicanism more than it has been talked in England for generations. What the outcome of the Budget controversy will be is problematical. If the Asquith Government go to the country on the constitutionality of the Lord's veto and an returned it will probably mean the overthrow of the House of Lords. If the Opposition win out, then surely is fiscal reform, protection for British industries.

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