

The Crops.

A crop bulletin will be issued by the provincial department of agriculture between the 15th and 20th inst.

Several complaints have reached The Commercial about a blight of some kind which is affecting the wheat crop. Quite a number of heads in some fields are noticed to have turned white, and on observation are found to be dead. Some attribute the trouble to a worm in the stock or root. In some fields the blight is extensive enough to slightly reduce the expected yield, while in others the amount of damage is not worth noting.

Portage la Prairie, Aug. 7.—Thos. Pratt went out to-day to his farm, four miles north of town, and started cutting a large field of wheat, which is ripe and will give a good yield. It is reported that west of the town farmers started cutting wheat to-day. Many will start during next week.

Mr. O'Malley, of Headingly, who was in the city a few days ago, reported that Mr. La Fleche, of St. Charles, had started cutting wheat on August 6. This is the first wheat cutting reported in this district.

J. F. Beatty, who has driven a great deal throughout Manitoba this year, while representing MacKenzie & Mills, Winnipeg, on the road, estimates the wheat crop at fifteen bushels per acre.

Wm. Stoddard, of Rosser, began work in his wheat field on Monday last. The wheat was in prime condition for cutting and will average about eighteen bushels per acre.

Fort Qu'Appelle, N. W. T., Aug. 7.—Robert Kearns was the first to cut wheat here this year, commencing on the 2nd of August. Many of the larger farmers commence next week.

C.P.R. CROP REPORT.

The Canadian Pacific railway authorities at Winnipeg obtained crop reports by wire on Monday, August 9, from points along their lines. A summary of the reports is as follows:

Moosemin—Barley cutting commenced Friday and will yield 35 bushels to the acre. Wheat harvest will commence this week. Wheat will run at least 20 bushels to acre, and oats will yield 30.

West Prince Albert—Cutting will begin here this week. All kinds of grain promise increased yield. Weather favorable.

Carman—Barley cutting begun and wheat cutting begins this week. Weather has been favorable and the wheat crop will be good.

Virden—A large number of farmers will start to cut wheat this week. The yield will be about the average.

High Bluff—Harvesting will be general by 15th. Wheat will average at least 20 bushels to acre.

Hamilton—Harvest will begin in ten days. Wheat should run 20 bushels to acre.

Moose Jaw—Cutting will be general this week. The best crop will be in Caron district, where the yield will be immense. There is no appearance of smut. This station's output of wheat is estimated at half a million bushels.

Clearwater—Wheat will run 22 bushels to the acre, and will be a good sample.

Regina—Cutting has begun here. Wheat will run 20, oats 30 and barley 15 bushels to the acre.

Claster—Cutting has commenced. The grain will be plump and good sample.

Indian Head—Harvesting will be general here in two weeks. Wheat

will average 30, oats 45 and barley 35 bushels to the acre.

Portage la Prairie—Wheat cutting will begin in a few days. Wheat will run 20 bushels to the acre, and will be a good sample.

Deerline—Harvesting is general here. The wheat crop is a good one, averaging 20 bushels to the acre.

Carberry—The yields here will be wheat 25, oats 30 and barley 30 bushels to acre.

Alameda—Wheat cutting has begun here. The wheat is a good sample.

Emerson—The yields hereabouts will average wheat 20, barley 40 and oats 60 bushels to the acre.

Killarney—A third of the barley crop is harvested. Wheat cutting begins this week. Weather favorable.

Winkler—Wheat is now being harvested. The yields in this district will be wheat 30 to 35, barley 45 and oats 55 bushels to acre.

Brandon—Some wheat has been cut north of Brandon, towards Claster, and near the little Souris. Before the end of this week harvesting will be general. Wheat will average from 22 to 30 bushels to acre. Barley will run 40 bushels to acre.

Holland—The yields here will be wheat 23, oats 35, barley 35.

Morden—Wheat here will run at least 20 bushels to the acre, barley 30 and oats 35.

Gretna—Some barley and wheat already cut and harvesting will be general in four days. Barley will average 40 bushels to the acre, and wheat about 25.

Rapid City—Harvesting will commence about the 12th. The grain is a good sample.

Treherne—Crops in this vicinity are good. Wheat will average 25 bushels to the acre.

Souris—Harvesting will not be general here until next week.

Shoal Lake—The estimated yields here are wheat 20, oats 45 and barley 35 bushels to the acre.

CROPS ROUND REGINA.

Regina, Aug. 7.—The binder is now at work and within three days harvesting will be general on light soils, in other places a week later. The wheat buyers have been through the country and bring back cheerful reports. There is fully 25 per cent. more acreage than there was last year, when the exceptionally wet weather prevented seeding operations. Speaking generally the crop is very good. Crops on summer-fallow are exceptionally full and 45 bushels to the acre will be common. The stubble crops are light and weedy. To a great extent this is due to bad farming. It seems as if some farmers will never learn that if they take crops off the same land year after year the soil is becoming impoverished. One would think that such farmers imagined that land lying fallow is land lying waste, instead of soil storing up riches for future use. But for numerous instances of this bad farming the average yield of this district would be 30 bushels to the acre, and that will be the yield from the good farms. The crops are very fair on first year's stubble, and on breaking they are good, but not so good as on summer fallow. The good crops are not universal. South of Pense there was little rain and that little came late. To the south generally the crops are not so good as to the north, where in some places the yield surpassed that of 1895 as for instance, Staeburg, Rose Plains and Tregarva. In the bluffs the yield is light owing to too much stubble

farming. In some districts crops from late seeding that missed the first rain and for which the second rain was too late have been plowed in, but this does not apply to any great areas. Summed up the position is: splendid crops from good farmers, and a fair average taking all in all. There is every indication that prices will be fairly high, and altogether, prospects are good. Oats and barley do not cut much figure in this district. The former will be a light crop, the latter an average one. Cattle have done well. There has been an abundance of good grass and water and very little trouble from flies. They will be as fine a sample for export as ever left this district. The horse business has got over its depression and is looking up. Quite a number have been sold at fair prices. It is highly probable that this state of things will continue, and that cattle will also be worth more dollars than they have been for some time past. There are other indications that the farmers' position is improving. He is meeting his bills regularly and there are hardly any of them asking for loans.

Indian Head, Aug. 9.—The weather still continues favorable for the growing crops, which will soon be ready for the binder and from present indications the yield will be large. Harvesting commenced on the Experimental farm on Friday last.

A Bank Managers Views.

Mr. D. R. Wilkie, general manager of the Imperial Bank of Canada, arrived in the city from the east on Tuesday and is at the Manitoba. He will stay in the city for the remainder of the week and then continue his trip to the Pacific coast inspecting all the branches of the bank en route. The Imperial bank is very closely connected with the interests of the western country and its officials keep themselves thoroughly posted as to the progress the country is making.

"Satisfied? Never more so in our lives," said Mr. Wilkie in answer to a reporter's queries regarding the general condition of affairs. "Canada was never in as good condition as now and everything indicates a very bright future. Everything is conspiring to make her go ahead. We have England making sacrifices to increase her trade—the first time in history that the mother country has taken any steps to enlarge the trade of a colony. The mineral development is a great thing, the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railway means a great expenditure of money in the country, and to top it all there are prospects of an enormous harvest. Nothing could be added that would make the outlook more cheerful. The signs of prosperity are not confined to particular provinces, but are general throughout the whole Dominion. We are on the brink of a great revival in business all over Canada."

Ottawa, Aug. 10.—Up to the end of July 2,003 vessels and 2,202,672 tons of freight passed through the Canadian Sault canal against 2,933 vessels and 2,756,542 tons of freight to the corresponding date last year.

The customs department has issued a circular to collectors in conformity with the decision of the imperial authorities to admit products of Belgium and Germany at the minimum tariff.