The Big Week at Brandon

Farmers in Western Manitoba are getting enthusiastic over the winter fair, horse show, poultry show and seed grain fair to be held in Brandon from the 9th to the 12th. A special train has been arranged for to bring the people off the Yorkton line from Binscarth to Brandon.

More than enough entries were in by the 24th to fill the building, some of the horsemen from Saskatchewan being entered for the horse show.

In the poultry department there will be about 2000 birds on exhibition, all in brand new coops.

About 60 of the students of the M. A. C. are preparing to take part in the stock-judging competition which is in charge of Prof. Peters.

Single rates will be in force on all railroads, and the Brandon City Council will undertake to provide accommodation for every visitor.

Manitoba Farmer Moves West

After looking over the country for a location to produce high-class seed grain, Mr. John Mooney of Valley River, Man., last week selected three quarter sections about three miles south of Regina and will take possession immediately. Mr. Mooney's intention is to enlarge his business in seed growing and will give special attention to the growing of improved strains of Red Fife wheat. This is a branch he has carried on for some years at Valley River but an increase in trade demanded a location where shipping facilities are more convenient and the land more open. Mr. Mooney is known in all parts of the grain growing west and the success of his venture is universally desired.

Foreign Crop Conditions

The U. S. Crop Reporter for February is slightly bullish in tone. The condition of the growing wheat crop the world over, on February, was none too promising. Taking the European wheat countries in order, the late sowings in Austria Hungary and Germany show some improvement, but are far from satisfactory. Sharp changes of temperature during the past month have been the chief meteorological feature of the central European countries. Up to the present it is not believed that any serious damage has been done the growing crop, but the land now is lying bare for the most part and a return to severe weather conditions is likely to do considerable harm. The German crop shows fair promise, but has not recovered from the setback of late sowing in the autumn.

In Bulgaria and Roumania, the acreage sown is from 20 to 30 per cent. smaller than last year, but the crop is said to be coming through the winter in fair condition. The crop for the most part has been well protected by snow. The situation throughout this section is rated as favorable. Intense cold prevailed throughout Southwestern Russia, during the first few months of winter, and at least one-half the crop was without snow covering. Serious damage is anticipated though it may not be so great as the unfavorable conditions would indicate. The Russian winter wheat crop in most provinces got a fairly good start in the fall.

In Great Britain the outlook is favorable. Heavy snow has been a feature of the winter in the British Isles, and it is believed the outlook for the wheat crop has not been equalled for years. In France, very similar weather conditions have prevailed, but the situation is not entirely satisfactory. Wheat was sown rather late last fall in most of the French provinces, and fears are apprehended that the mild, favorable weather now prevailing will induce weed growth that will seriously check the growth of the late sown crop. In Southern Europe the outlook is of average promise. In the Southern hemisphere, harvesting operations are practically complete. There is a decided change in the crop outlook in Australia; the wheat crop of New South Wales will undoubtedly fall well below last year's standard, while the crop of Victoria remains good in promise and that of South Australia excellent. The Argentine Ministry of Agriculture about the first of the new year revised its estimates of yield and of probable export surplus as follows: Wheat—crop, 171 million bushels, surplus for exportation (including flour), 123 million bushels; flax seed—crop, 42,750,000 bushels, export surplus, 39 million bushels; oats—export surplus, 59 million bushels. This estimate places the probable wheat crop of this year some 25 million bushels below the record harvest of last year.

From India, this year's area under wheat (not including the Native States nor the British province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, which usually contain about 16.5 per cent of the total wheat acreage) is reported to be 4½ million acres, or 29 per cent, larger than the sowings at the same date last year, but about 2½ million acres, or 11 per cent. less than the average of the final returns for the five years ending with 1906-7. Unless the exceptionally disastrous crop conditions prevailing in 1907-8 and the lateness of the sowings are kept in mind, a comparison between the last two years is likely to be misleading. The acreage statistics given in the first general memorandum are as follows: 1908-9, 20,169,700 acres; 1907-8, 15-645,200 acres; average, 1902-3 to 1906-07-(final) 22,664,500 acres.

The condition of the American winter wheat crop is not discussed

MARKETS

Wheat, in February, in Winnipeg, advanced approximately 10 cents per bushel. The past two weeks have witnessed a steady climb upward with scarcely a single slump. The demand for wheat has been exceptional, and number one Northern has sold several times within a fraction of the May option. Advances have been based largely upon actual world conditions, though the speculative element on Chicago and Minneapolis exchanges have forced values in those markets rather too high, higher at least than conditions in European markets warranted. Winnipeg ran ahead of European advances on all occasions, but not sufficiently so to put exporters out of business. Speculative trading has been brisk, the May option being the favorite.

In Chicago, the Patten crowd are trying to take their profits. During the early part of the week an effort was made by combined interests in the east, to break the price of wheat by wholesale selling for May delivery. But the market seemed to stand all the May that could be piled on it without a serious break in prices. The quantity of wheat that Patten and his friends have got hold of is believed to be larger than anything handled by one clique of operators in Chicago since the disastrous Leiter deal of 1895. The same bunch are believed to be buying heavily in Winnipeg.

Meanwhile, the world's situation in wheat continues to shape for higher values. Wheat has not yet touched the highest spot it will reach before the world is able to draw on the crop of 1909. Dollar and a quarter wheat a month ago was rated among the impossibilities. To-day, that price looks rational for the world's first cereal. Wheat is almost certain yet to advance. European reports do not indicate any too hopeful condition in some parts regarding the winter crop, the Argentine is not improving in shipments, war is threatening in southeastern Europe, and things generally the world over do not indicate that much more wheat will be scraped up between now and the end of next July than was estimated in our last week's issue.

In coarse grains little activity exists. Flax has been moving up steadily of late, and is selling now around $1.35, an advance of 13 cents over figures for the closing week of January. Oats, early this week, showed a tendency to advance, and some sharp upward movements were noticeable in the market, but the impression generally seems to be that oats are not going to go much beyond their present values. In considering oat prices one has to figure on the basis of the value of the grain for feed, and while feed wheat is at a pretty good level, and barley reasonably high, it is difficult to figure into oats for feeding much more than the value set for them by present quotations. The grain, however, is seemingly scarce in the country. On the other side of the line oats show a tendency to move upwards, and in the long run are expected to advance considerably in price. The advance for all grades of oats, in February, in Winnipeg, was approximately 5 cents per bushel.

Prices for the week were:

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed	Thur	Fri.	Sat.
No. 1 Nor.	109¾	110¾	111	111¼	112⅜	112¼
No. 2 Nor.	105	105¾	106	106	108⅛	108¼
No. 3 Nor.	101¾	102½	102¾	103	104½	104¾
No. 4	96	96½	96¾	97	98½	99¼
No. 5	90½	91	91¼	91½	92¾	92¾
No. 6	84	84¼	84½	84¾	86½	87¼
Feed	72	73	75	75	77	77
No. 1 Alberta Red	105	105½	106	104	105	107
Oats—						
No. 2 white	42¾	42¾	42½	42½	42½	42½
No. 3 white	41½	41½	41½	41½	41½	41½
Feed	41½	41½	41½	41½	41½	41½
Feed 2	40½	40½	40½	40½	40½	40½
Barley—						
No. 3	48½	49	49	49	49½	52
No. 4	47	47	48	48	48½	50
Feed	43	43	43	43	43½	45
Flax—						
No. 1 N. W.	135½	137	134½	135¾	136¼	136
No. 1 Man.	133½	135	133½	133¾	134½	134

Option quotations for the week were:

Wheat—	Open.	High.	Low.	Close
Monday—				
Feb.	107⅜	108⅛	107¾	108
Mar.	107⅜			107¾
May	109	109¾	109	109¾
July	109⅞	110⅝	110⅛	110½
Tuesday—				
Feb.	108			108¾
Mar.	108½			108⅞
May	110½	110⅞	109⅞	110¾
July	111½	111⅞	111	111⅝
Wednesday—				
Feb.	108¾			109
Mar.	109			109⅛
May	111	111⅜	110¾	111⅛
July	111¾	112⅜	111¾	112
Thursday—				
Feb	109			109¼
Mar.	109¼			109¼
May	111	111⅜	111⅞	111
July	118⅛	112⅜	112	112¼
Friday—				
Feb.	109¾			111⅛
Mar.	110¼			111
May	112⅞	113¼	112⅝	113⅜
July	113½	114¾	113¾	114⅝
Saturday—				
Feb.	111¼	....	....	111⅛
Mar.	111¼	....	....	111¼
May	113⅝	113¾	113⅛	113½
July	114⅞	115	114⅜	114½

PRODUCE AND MILL FEED

Bran			$20.00
Shorts			21.00
Chopped Feeds—			
Barley and oats			24.00
Barley			22.00
Oats			26.00
Hay, per ton car on track, Winnipeg (prairie hay)	$6.00	@	7.00
Timothy	9.00	@	10.00
Baled straw	4.50	@	5.00

BUTTER AND EGGS

Fresh turned creamery bricks			30
Storage bricks			27
Boxes, 26 to 14 lbs.			27
DAIRY BUTTER—			
Extra, fancy dairy prints	21	@	23
Dairy in tubs	19	@	20
EGGS—			
Manitoba fresh	37	@	39
Cold storage, candled			33
Pickled			31
POULTRY—			
Turkey, Manitoba	19		
Turkey, fine Ontario (undrawn and case weight)			19
Spring chicken, per lb.			18
Ducks, per lb.			15
Geese, per lb.			14
VEGETABLES—			
Potatoes, per bushel	85	@	90
Carrots, per cwt.			$1.50
Beets, per cwt.			1.50
Turnips, per cwt.			75
Cabbage, per cwt.			2.00
Onions, per cwt	2.25	@	2.50
Parsnips, per cwt.			2.00
HIDES—			
Frozen (subject to usual tare)	7	@	7½
No. 1 tallow			5
No. 2 tallow			4
Sheepskins (late taken off)	40	@	75
Lambskins, (late taken off)	40	@	75
Wool (western unwashed)	7	@	8
DRESSED MEATS—			
Beef carcasses, per lb.			7½
Hind quarters			9
Front quarters			6½
Dressed hogs			8½
Dressed lamb	12	@	13
Dressed mutton			10½

FURS

The fur market continues active, but receipts have been light, owing to the unfavorable weather for catching. Receipts are expected to largely increase as the season is at hand when the animals do much running about and are easily caught. A good many believe that the present high prices will not be maintained after the coming March London Sales.

LIVE STOCK, WINNIPEG

Receipts of cattle are light, the market dull, and unchanged in price from last quotations. Hogs are coming forward in fair numbers and are meeting with good demand. Hog prices are up half a cent. The general impression, however, is that the advance is only temporary, due to an unusually brisk demand, for the past fortnight with only normal deliveries. Butcher cattle are quoted at from $3.00 to $4.00. No other class is coming in. No sheep are on sale. Hogs of 150 to 250 pounds are worth $6.50, with heavier offerings running from $4.75 to $5.00.

TORONTO

Export steers, $5.00 to $5.60, butchers, $4.40 to $5.10; cows, $3.00 to $4.25; calves, $3.00 to $7.00; Sheep, $4.00 to $4.50; lambs, $5.50 to $7.00; hogs, $6.40 to $6.60.

CHICAGO

Beef cows, $3.15 to $4.85; heifers, $3.00 to $6.00; bulls, $2.75 to $4.90; canners, $1.75 to $3.00; calves, $3.25 to $8.25; stockers and feeders, $3.00 to $5.40; lambs, $5.00 to $7.50; hogs, $6.00 to $6.45.