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## THE WESTERN GRAIN CROP.

A copy has been sent us of the report upon the crop prospect of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, prepared at the request of the Winnipeg Clearing House Association. It bears date 4th August, and was received just too late for last issue. We give it in full, however, as a valuable condensed statement of the outlook for the grain crop at more than a hundred points in our prairie country. Harvesting will be general during this week and next at all but a few places in Manitoba. In the Territories it will average some days later.

Analyzing the return, it is seen that at only eight or ten points out of ninety-two in Manitoba are the prospects considered "unfavorable" or "poor:" in the main they are good; for though the word used to express the prospect is in numerous places "fair," it can be seen by looking at the next three columns that the estimated yield of these districts is just as much to the acre as many which are marked "good." The expression, "very good," or "excellent," is used where

the estimated yield of wheat is 20 to 30 bushels; that of barley, 30 to 40 bushels; and of oats, 35 to 50 bushels to the acre. The average of wheat expected in the province, as nearly as can be made out, is 18 to 20 bushels per acre; at only a dozen points is it placed at 25 to 40.

The estimates made on August 4th at three points in Alberta, three in Saskatchewan, and sixteen in Assiniboia, bear out the forecasts made in our previous reports of crop prospects, namely, that the Territories will give larger relative yields than Manitoba. Strong terms are used to describe the probable yield this year, "Very good"—"excellent"—"never better"—are common. Nowhere is the crop of wheat estimated at less than 18 bushels to the acre; at most places it is 20 to 35; the average is about 24. It is interesting to remark, too, that the places promising the greatest yields are in the more distant Territories of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Recent information from the West, derived both from letters and from callers, continues to be of a very reassuring kind. It is universally agreed that the Territories will have a record yield of grain. We give below our weekly telegraphic despatch about Manitoba prospects, which left Winnipeg at noon yesterday: "Weather during past week cool and cloudy with frequent showers. The recent wet weather has done a great deal of good in maturing the late grain. The wheat in the main is ripening in splendid form. The cutting of barley and oats is now in active swing, and wheat cutting will be general in course of the next few days."

## THE PROVISION TRADE.

At the present writing, trade in butter seems to be almost dead, with nothing moving. Up to date, the exports have totalled only about 63,000 boxes, as against nearly 135,000 boxes for the same period of last year. Fully as much, even if not more than as last year, has been made in this country, so the accumulation of stocks must be very large. Country merchants indeed are pressing for bids, but no one is anxious to touch the supplies at the prices asked. This is probably the root of the trouble; the disinclination of British dealers to pay anything like the prices which must be realized in order to make a profit on the article, after paying for it here, allowing for freight, insurance charges, etc. It would be unwise to forecast the ultimate outcome of present conditions. It is interesting to gather, from figures recently published, that the export of butter from Denmark to the United Kingdom during last year was 1,890,000 cwt. Of this a fair quantity was in tins. Prices ranged from 1s. 1½d. per Danish pound (a little heavier than ours) in November, to a fraction less than a shilling in August. It is worthy of note, too, that in Denmark the most strenuous efforts are made to ensure the absolute purity and cleanliness of all milk products. Attention is constantly paid, too, to a diminution in the cost of manufacture.

In cheese the prices realized on the various boards throughout the country have not taken full effect in the local market. Some dealers seem to think