

Northwest Territories for 1905, also an estimate of the yield in these grains. We think our figures are on the conservative side. The condition of the crop is much healthier than a year ago. The harvest should be pretty general about 20th August."

	Wheat acres	Barley acres	Oats acres
Manitoba.....	2,643,588	432,298	1,031,239
N. W. Territories....	1,108,272	93,555	594,981
Estimated yield, .....	82,540,920 bushels	18,404,855 bushels	73,179,9 bushels

The figures are below most others that have been published, but, banker like, Mr. Aird doubtless has sifted his information and discounted over sanguine reports.

THE ENTENTE \* \* \* \* \* BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.—Following immediately after the magnificent reception given at Brest to the war fleet of Great Britain the French war fleet is now at Portsmouth where His Majesty King Edward and Queen Alexandra received the visiting Admirals and other officers in royal state. These events were recognized and declared to be an exhibition of the *entente* established between England and France.

A singularly pleasant feature in these visits has been the enthusiastic cordiality displayed by the peoples of the two ports and districts where the two fleets have fraternized. In Brest the school children were seen wearing miniature Union Jacks and at Portsmouth, the seamen and officers of both squadrons have mingled and shared amusements and hospitalities in the most friendly cordiality.

IS THERE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVE IN THE ENTENTE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE?—Speculation is rife as to the real motive of these great naval demonstrations jointly by France and England. The speeches at Brest have been published in full, those at Portsmouth, so far as cabled, re-echo them. The main theme of the Brest speeches is, the desirability of the world's peace being maintained in order to give prosperity to commerce and save humanity from the horrors of war. The practical alliance of France and England was spoken of by the Admirals of both fleets as an assurance of peace. Not in specific words, but by clear implication it was said at Brest, as well as by President Loubet at Paris, that any other powers would hesitate long before daring to enter into conflict with the nations protected by such war fleets as those of England and France, which, in combination, would be unconquerable.

ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL EVENT.—Some days ago there was a gathering at Sault Ste. Marie, to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the "Soo" canal. Occasion was taken to hold a reunion of prominent American and Canadian officials and public men. Nothing could surpass the heartiness with which citizens of both countries spoke of each

other's national progress and prospects. Fraternity was the note of the celebration.

CANADIAN BANKERS ENCOURAGE RIFLE SHOOTING.—Between banking and rifle-shooting there seems no affinity, but they have connections of no slight importance. Rifle shooting is not sport, it is a training for service in national defence and in the protection of a country from a foreign foe, bankers have a leading interest.

This is the opinion of the executives of the following banks in Toronto, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the Dominion, the Toronto, the Imperial, the Standard, and the Traders, each of whom have decided to contribute \$100 annually for prizes in the banker's match at the Ontario Rifle Association meetings. In addition to the above Mr. T. G. Brough, general manager of the Dominion Bank, offers \$50 yearly for the encouragement of cadets. This example is likely to be followed, as Lt. Col. Macdonald, Confederation Life, has found the Toronto bankers generally in favour of encouraging rifle shooting by youths, who, as members of cadet, or militia corps, are much benefitted physically and morally by military discipline and training.

ARE OUR ARTISANS GROWING RECKLESS?—Within the last few weeks a dozen deaths have occurred of carpenters, roofers and others who trusted themselves on scaffolding that collapsed. In each of two cases the platform gave way under the weight of one man. One can see on any new building how flimsy are the supports fixed up for artisans and how contrary they often are to elementary mechanical laws. One terrible accident of this class could not have occurred if the men on a platform had had any knowledge of the lever principle—unless they were bent on suicide as some artisans seem to be who work outside new buildings.

COLLAPSE OF DEPARTMENTAL STORE.—An appalling illustration of the preceding references to reckless workman was given at Albany on 8th inst, where a departmental store collapsed killing 30 employers and injuring 70 to 80 others, some of whom will die. The so-called accident, for accident it certainly was not, was caused by excavation work that caused a pillar to give way. Whoever had the oversight of this work is under an awful responsibility, but, probably, he was too ignorant of mechanical principles to know the risk he was running.

FIRES IN HARDWARE STORES.—Two heavy losses have been recently incurred by fires in hardware stores, one in that of Messrs. Ashdown, Winnipeg, the other in that of the Starke establishment. One would naturally suppose a hardware store to be especially safe from fire as its contents are