

The Crops.

Holland, July 28.—The wheat crop in this vicinity is good, and many fields will exceed thirty bushels per acre. Early and continuous rains all season have had a good effect, and a bountiful crop is assured. Holland is built on a site very similar to Brandon, being on a hillside; the drainage, consequently, is good, and with the abundance of shade trees and lawns surrounding many of the private residences, the town is fast becoming the prettiest on this line and a favorite resort for home seekers.

Glenboro, July 27.—The wheat crops around here will not be up to the average. It is coming into harvest fast. Near Stockton some will be fit to cut by the 10th of August. The oat crop is practically a failure on account of the heavy frosts in May.

Shoal Lake, July 28.—Crops are looking well, and before many days are over harvesting will be in full swing. Our merchants are getting in a goodly supply of binding twine, so as to be ready to meet the demand. Farmers are now busy haying.

Mr. W. R. Baker, superintendent of the M. & N. W. railway, returned Wednesday evening from a close inspection of the line from Minnedosa to the Portage. Every portion of the road was found in the best of condition. Many Galicians are working on the permanent way, and are saving considerable money. A large boarding car is kept at Westbourne for their convenience and their families. In Mr. Baker's opinion there will be an early harvest. The grain is ripening fast, and the fields are rapidly turning to a golden hue.

"I think we will have a good crop along the whole line," said the superintendent, "the acreage is about the average and I think the yield will be also. The farms back from the railway are showing up better than those close to the track, and the farmers are feeling in good spirits over the prospects. Haying is well on."

Starbuck, July 28.—The crops around here are looking fine. Farmers expect the wheat yield will be about twenty bushels, oats, fifty and barley forty. Potatoes are a good crop. We had new ones on the 20th inst., not had for this dry season. Wheat is expected to ripen about the 10th of August. There is more grain in around here than ever before and next year we expect still more, as there are several farmers breaking on new farms. A number of new settlers are coming in here and most of the dry land is taken up. If those who hold land were a little more moderate in their price they could sell it all to good farmers who are hunting new land. Amongst the farmers who have bought here this summer are A. Meakin, S. McIntyre, W. Black, A. Hay, McDonald brothers, and Longmore brothers.

Northern Pacific Crop Report.

The Northern Pacific railway crop report for the week ending July 29th, 1897, is as follows:

Brandon.—Weather is very hot and dry. Wheat is looking well but oats rather a light crop. We need rain.

Roundthwaite.—Wheat well headed out and still looking well. Weather most favorable. Oats looking generally poor and it looks as if the crop will be light. Weather hot and dry since last report.

Wawanesa.—Weather during the past week has been clear and hot. The crops are fast filling and look splendid in this vicinity. No damage by hail.

Hilton.—Crops since last report improved wonderfully. Wheat well headed out; good heads the rule, though in some fields straw is short. Many crops 50 per cent better than last year. Barley rapidly heading since rain, crop will be good. Oats very poor, much headed out though only a foot high, some smut showing. If weather keeps warm harvest will start in about three weeks. No demand for harvest hands.

Belmont.—Past week has been favorable for crops. The heavy rains of last week did a great amount of good in this locality. Some grain has begun to turn and cutting will start in about two weeks. Wheat crop is good and other grains are a fair crop. Garden crops fine. Hay crop will be light.

Baldur.—The late rains have considerably benefitted the growing crop. All vegetables are looking fine. Slight shower of hail on Sunday, 25th, no damage done. The weather during the week has been chiefly wet, latterly clear and moderate temperature.

Somerset.—No change in crop situation since last report. The fore part of the week was quite cool and crops did not progress much but latter part has been warm and very favorable. Haying is quite general. Harvest will be a week or ten days in advance of last year.

Rosebank.—The heavy rain of a week ago has made a wonderful improvement on the crops, both in the growth and the filling out. They now promise almost to equal crop of 1895, except in some cases where fields are weedy. Farmers are now busy haying but the crop is light.

Roland.—No material change in the general appearance of all grain since my previous report. Weather has been very warm with one light rain.

Morris.—Contrary to fears expressed in last report no damage was done to crops by heavy rains of last week. Crops are progressing rapidly and farmers say if nothing happens there will be a large crop of all kinds of grain. The heavy rains have done considerable damage to the potato crop, rotting the tops and bearing the potatoes from the soil. For past week the weather has been dry and warm, good for ripening crop.

St. Jean.—No rain since July 21st. We hear reports that the grain is damaged to some extent by the late hard rain.

Lettellier.—During the past week the weather has been most favorable, the growing grain looking well and in good condition. No report of any damage by rust in this vicinity. We had one heavy shower during the past seven days. The recent heavy rain delayed the farmers in their haying, but the water is drying up fast and they will be able to go to work generally in a day or two.

Emerson.—Prospect of big yield continue bright. Very heavy rain last night with small hail, no damage. Grain filling in good shape and appearances indicate that some will be ready to cut in a couple of weeks.

Portage la Prairie.—Since last report the weather has been favorable and the crops have wonderfully improved. It is expected the heavy rains of last week will add about five bushels to the acre while the straw will be longer and much easier to harvest.

The firm of Robin, Sadler & Haworth, the well-known manufacturers of leather bolting, of Montreal and Toronto, will hereafter be known by the style of Sadler & Haworth.

Decline of Silver.

London, July 29.—The Globe, commenting on the fall in silver, says: "The augmentation of the world's gold yield could not fail to increase the value of silver. When California and Australia poured their auriferous riches into the market, silver like all other commodities, acquired an enhanced value. But the United States then had no accumulations of the white metal, whereas now these have become so enormous that silver sales can only be effected at a sacrifice. This week's collapse would have happened some time back, but for continuous purchases on Japanese account. That demand has ceased, and China and India are supplied. What steps the United States silverites propose to counteract this disastrous state of things remains to be seen. Their attitude is a specific threat to tamper with the currency. McKinley, possibly foreseeing an attempt of this sort, has given an emphatic warning that he will be no party to such perilous work."

A damaging rain is reported from Ontario. The rain covered the country from Windsor to Kiffigton. Oats are badly lodged. The rainfall was one of the heaviest on record.

Some time ago W. G. Fonseca, of Winnipeg, who handles the m.c.a. roofing material, covered a couple of Canadian Pacific railway cars with this material as an experiment. This has given such good satisfaction that Mr. Fonseca has now received an order to cover a number of cars. One very valuable feature of the material for that purpose is, that it affords a good footing, thus greatly reducing the danger of accidents from slipping, which is an ever present danger to men who have to run along the tops of railway cars.

Deerholm's Corn Trade, published in Liverpool, says the Hungarian wheat crop is now estimated by the minister of agriculture at only 13,000,000 quarters, against 17,500,000 quarters a year ago. If this proves correct, Austria-Hungary will probably become an importing country next season.

Washington, July 29.—A secret commission has been sent abroad by the department of agriculture to investigate the possibility of Siberia as a wheat growing rival to the western states. It is composed of two experts of the department, and they have full power to extend the investigation as far as they think necessary. The administration thinks it is confronted with a serious economic, as well as political, problem. The new railroad of the Russian government, building through Siberia, will be opened for traffic all along two lines in 1900. If this Asiatic domain of the czar be capable of raising great wheat crops, the export markets of the United States will be in most imminent danger. The price of wheat will then fall lower than it has ever been in this country, and all the tariffs in the world will not be able to raise it. This is why the question is of general interest.

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