

week was colder than usual for the time of year. The crops came on nicely, and with the favorable weather, soon overcame the set backs from the severe May weather. July again was a remarkable month—remarkable for low temperature and dark, cloudy weather, with much rain. The month was probably the coolest on record, for Manitoba. Bright weather is considered one of the characteristics of this country, but this year sunshine was almost the exception during July. The weather during July produced an enormous growth of straw, and was also favorable to the very heavy yield, as the heads filled out slowly but heavily. The disadvantage of July weather was the late harvest, caused by the low temperature, which kept the crops growing instead of ripening. August came in piping hot, which lasted for a week or so, followed by ten days or thereabouts of moderately warm weather. The balance of the month was irregular with several cool dips. Extreme changes in temperature are looked for in August, but this year the extremes reached were greater than usual. September has also been noted for exceptional weather, the temperature for the past two or three weeks having averaged remarkably warm for this time of year. Writing on the 25th of September, there has been no sign of frost for weeks. The days have been mostly bright and warm and the nights soft and balmy, notwithstanding that the wind has been several times in a cold direction. Altogether the months appear to have been badly mixed this year, and the clerk of the weather seems to have ushered some of them in out of their usual order. The latter part of September would have answered very well for the last half of August. July was more like an average June month, but colder. The hot spell in April would have been more in place in July, while some of the weather late in May was cold enough for March.

Editorial Notes.

In an article last week in these columns, relating to the granting of our public lands to corporations, it was stated that land grants should be forfeited in instances where companies had not fulfilled the conditions under which the grants were made. It appears that the Northwest Central railway affords an excellent opportunity to put this idea into practice. Patience has ceased to be a virtue, in dealing with the dilly-dallying policy of this corporation, and it is time that something decisive should be done in the matter.

The big farming concern in the Territories, inaugurated and wonderfully mismanaged for a time by Sir Lester Kaye, is understood to be in much better shape since the change in the management was made. This year the affairs of the company have been conducted more successfully, and splendid crops have been gathered from the different farms. No doubt a fair dividend will be paid this year on legitimate expenditure, but the company can hardly hope to ever pay a dividend upon the vast sum squandered by Kaye, is the most idiotic man re.

Under the head of communications will be found a letter from Grant, Horn & Bucknall, which is worth perusal by all those interested in dairy matters. It points out very clearly

the needs of the Manitoba cheese trade. We have a market right here in the west for all the cheese we are likely to make for the next few years, unless production increases much more rapidly than it has done in the past. What is immediately necessary, is to meet the requirements of the markets at home, and after this is done, it will be in order to seek to extend trade abroad.

The writer in the *Northwestern Magazine*, published at St. Paul, Minnesota, who does not believe in the extension of the wheat area northwestward beyond its present limits, on account of the danger from summer frosts, should make a note of the following fact: The spot in all western Canada, which suffered most severely from frost this year, was a section just on the Dakota boundary, commencing about 50 miles west of the Red river. While this patch in the extreme south east suffered considerable injury, hundreds of miles north and west there was no frost for weeks later.

The harvest help excursions from eastern Canada, have been an immense assistance to Manitoba farmers, in handling their heavy crops this year. Notwithstanding the large number of farm hands which have arrived from the east, the demand has not been supplied. Up to \$3 per day has been paid to harvest hands. All available help have been busy in gathering the crops and more were wanted. Delay has been experienced in starting the threshing machines, on account of the scarcity of men. The large number of new threshers which have been purchased this year indicates that there is a lot of this class of work to be done.

The discoveries of coal in the Red Deer river country, recently reported from Calgary, serve to again call attention to the magnitude of the coal deposits of western Canada. Coal has been discovered at various points, throughout the vast region extending from northwestern Manitoba to the Pacific coast, a distance of 1500 miles, while it is well known that these deposits extend away to the northward far beyond the present limits of settlement. From Manitoba to the far away Queen Charlotte islands of the Pacific, coal deposits have been found, and now discoveries are constantly being made. Our coal area is simply immense, and when these coal districts are opened up more fully, there will be no question as to the abundance of cheap fuel.

Mr. Davis, a Winnipeg game and fish dealer, has been writing to the press regarding the game laws concerning prairie chicken, or grouse. At present the sale of these birds is prohibited, which means that only those who have leisure to go shooting are able to obtain this delicacy, unless in an unlawful way. Mr. Davis attacks this provision of the law as unjust in principle, and he uses some sound arguments to show why it is so. Foreign sports can come into the country and shoot the birds, but the majority of our people at home, who have no time for this sport, may grow up without knowing the taste of a prairie fowl. The law prohibits the taking of the birds out of the province, but it is understood that large numbers are carried away in grips, trunks, and in other concealed ways.

The formal opening of the railway tunnel under the St. Clair river, at Sarnia, Ontario province, on Sept. 19, marked the completion of one of the greatest events, in the line of engineering, which has ever been undertaken on this continent. The tunnel connects the province of Ontario with the state of Michigan, under water, and does away with the necessity of ferrying trains across the river, to connect with the railway on the other side. The new tunnel will greatly expedite traffic at that point. The ferry process not only consumed time, but occasionally great inconvenience was experienced from ice in the winter. As a result of the successful completion of the Grand Trunk railway tunnel at Sarnia, we may expect that tunneling will be undertaken at Detroit and perhaps other points along the western Ontario frontier.

The farmers of Ontario seem to be in a prosperous condition, if a recent official return regarding the business of the loan companies can be taken as approximately correct. This return shows that less than three and a quarter millions of dollars is held against the farmers. The total amount is much smaller than could have been expected. So far as Ontario is concerned, there is evidently no reason to talk about the loan companies owning the country, as is the popular remark regarding the situation in a number of states in the republic to the south of us. Another official return shows that in Ontario, the value of farm property has increased \$100,000,000 between 1882 and 1889. With these evidences of prosperity on the part of the farmer, it seems strange that there should be such a tendency to desert rural for urban life, as the census of the province shows. In forty years the percentage of urban to the total population of Ontario increased from 9.30 to 31.20 per cent.

British Grain Trade.

The *Mark Lane Express* of Sept. 21, in its weekly review of the grain trade says: "New English wheats were very depressed; much damp and unfit grain was offered at 35s@40s; foreign wheats were irregular and weak; some provincial markets record an average decline of 1s, American red winter was quoted at 39s to 40s 6d; and white at 43s 6d to 44s; the finest Indian was quoted at 41s 9d; maize was against holders; American crop was offered at 23s 6d, January shipment. At Monday's market business was animated; new English wheat in bad condition was plentifully offered, but was weak, old English was scarce and was held for 1s advance; foreign wheats generally were 6d better; flour from new wheat was cheap, while other grades were firm; foreign grinding barley was 6d cheaper; oats advanced 6d; maize was very weak, beans and peas steady.

Price Current: At Kansas City there is said to be a great wheat blockade. Several thousand cars are standing on the track unable to be moved on account of the lack of engines. Every elevator is jammed beyond its capacity. All of the railroads are laying miles of sidings to hold the incoming crops till they can be milled, stored, or moved. Several lines have abandoned some of their extra and suburban trains in order to use the engines for freight traffic.