

## Crop Reports.

The United States official crop report, dated Aug 25th say "The weather during the last week in Minnesota and the Dakotas was too cold for late crops. Although wheat has been nearly all cut some fields late sown in the extreme north have been injured by frost. Light frosts also extended over the extreme northern portions of Iowa and Michigan, but caused no material damage. The recent rains have greatly improved the condition of the crops throughout the corn belt, extending from Ohio westward to Kansas and Nebraska, and in this section the condition of corn and potatoes is much improved.

The crop estimate of the Agricultural Gazette, like most others, shows the English crop as likely to be only slightly below an average.

## Lumber Cuttings.

Rat Portage lumbermen want the Ontario Government to grant them permits to go on and prepare for taking out logs next winter. The sales of timber limits takes place at Toronto on October 1st, and this date, the lumbermen say is too late to give them time to get in supplies before it freezes up.

Angus Fraser has completed a contract for getting out 5,000,000 feet of logs for the Cowichan Lumber Company, Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island, B.C. The logs all through are said to be the finest ever cut on the Island, and there are lots more in the same place.

The Minnesota & Ontario Lumber Company, of Rat Portage, have met their men half way by reducing the hours of labor to 10½ hours per day. The other mills it is said will likely follow suit.

## Grain and Milling.

A carload of machinery has arrived for the new flour mill at McGregor, Manitoba. A. J. McKay, millwright, is busily engaged with a gang of men placing it in the building.

The new engines and other machinery for the Pilot Mound flour and oatmeal mills has arrived. Millwrights from Ontario will proceed at once to place the machinery in position.

The old style flour mill at High Bluff, Manitoba, is being fitted up with modern machinery. A. Leitch has the contract.

The Assiniboine roller mills at Moosomin, Assa., will be offered for sale by auction on October 20, as a result of legal process.

A Mr. Groves, of Ontario, is building a flour mill at Austin, Manitoba. Mr. Groves is the owner of mill's in Ontario.

## British Columbia Trade.

There is considerable of interest in the mercantile and financial situation this week to report. The matter of greatest moment to any one corporation is the strike at Wellington mines. Nanaimo, which derives the principal amount of trade from the miners, is affected by it and the loss is appreciable. Somewhere about \$150,000 a month in wages is distributed in this way, so that any diminution in the volume of the output of coal is directly felt by the trade dependent thereon. Nanaimo is simply the creation of the mining industry. On the other hand the output of the New Vancouver Coal Company's coal is largely increased thereby, and there is some compensation in this respect, but, of course, not sufficient as an offset to the

large business of the Dunsmuirs. However, there is no anxiety among the people of Nanaimo as the strike can only be temporary, although neither side at the present shows signs of weakening. The Dunsmuirs have agreed to the demand of the men to work in eight hour shifts, but will not recognize the Union as a body. This at present is the only point of difference. The sympathy of the people generally seems to be with the miners. A good deal of the public demonstration made is no doubt for political effect. One result of it is that the demand for the New Vancouver coal is rapidly increasing. About 1,600 tons is being mined per day and this is expected to reach 2,000 tons shortly. Your correspondent has had an opportunity to see a good deal of the country lying between Comox and Victoria. Settlement is not as rapid as it is in the Westminster district, but substantial improvement is being made all along and a most important agricultural district is being developed, apart from that from the older settled parts. The land in and immediately adjoining Nanaimo cannot be said to be particularly well adapted from appearances for agricultural purposes, but whether it is due to the favorable influences of the climate or some other cause the character of the fruits grown there is surprising and pears, apples, cherries, plums and small fruits are grown which are not surpassed anywhere in Canada. Corn was observed growing which measured 13 and 14 feet, equal to the best in Western Ontario. Such results are surprising.

Business is steady and generally speaking very healthy. A good harvest, with returns already coming in, is sending prosperity and cheerfulness to all affected thereby. The new crop of hay and oats is still weakening prices. The fish market is principally confined to salmon; butter is crowding the market, much of it inferior. Eggs, both packed and fresh, are scarce and in big demand. In flour and feed business quotations are steady, with an upward tendency if anything, owing to advanced prices elsewhere. Vegetables are plentiful and of good quality. California grapes are coming in freely, and the market is well stocked with peaches, plums, melons, and apples, both home grown and foreign. The quality of all, apples excepted many of which are inferior, is excellent. Venison is coming in, the close season having ended.

Wholesale houses are all doing an excellent business. Meats and sugars are firm; canned goods are scarce and dear. The canning factories report that their great difficulty has been to obtain anything like a sufficient supply to can in order to meet the demand, showing that the demand is altogether in excess of supply.

Shipping continues heavy. The arrival of the Parthia from China this week, makes this the fourth steamer within a month. Several more ships to load lumber have arrived, and one is taking on anthracite coal at Port Moody, for San Francisco. Shipping between local points is good.

Real estate is quiet all over the province. During the past week the president of the Provincial Exhibit Association, Mayor Oppenheimer and the active secretary Mr. Burdick, have been preparing the provincial exhibit which goes to Toronto and St. John, N. B., starting on the 1st of September. A very determined and systematic effort has been made to make this the most successful yet attempted,

and exhibits are being received from all parts of the province. Mr. Gosnell, of the firm of C. Whetham and Co., and late of the Vancouver News Advertiser, has been appointed to take charge of it and will accompany it east.

A few days ago the prominent shareholders in the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Co. visited Nanaimo and purchased the principal part of the stock of the Nanaimo telephone company and the two will be incorporated and a cable laid between the two cities. Since my last writing, the Cutch which plies between Nanaimo and Vancouver, has been subsidised to carry the mails, thus forming another important link.

## Sicamous.

Sicamous is a station on the C. P. Railway, located at the east end of the Shuswap lakes, British Columbia, where the waters of Spallumcheen river flow in from the south. During the day of railway construction it was the head of steamboat navigation, where supplies were transferred to the wagon and pack-train, for transportation eastward into Eagle Pass. It was during those days an active camp, but the section in which it is located is now having a new era of development in the construction of the Shuswap & Okanagan Railway, from Sicamous to Vernon. T. W. Patterson of the firm which has the contract for building the road, is on the ground giving general supervision to matters. McCoy of the engineering staff, has the north half of the line in charge, and Perry the south half. The grading to Enderby, 25 miles, is well advanced, and it is the expectation to lay the steel for that district this fall. The rock work near Sicamous is being done by steam drills. More than 500 men are actively employed on the work, and preparations are now making to receive the steel rails for laying the track to Enderby.

Sicamous is the gateway or outlet of the best agricultural district in British Columbia. To the southward the Spallumcheen and Okanagan valleys are reported to have wonderfully abundant crops, wheat 30 to 50 bushels to the acre, one of the best yields ever known. At Enderby, the head of steamboat navigation, is located a roller mill, the only one in the province, and here the wheat produced in these rich valleys will be converted into flour, and during the active season 200 barrels per day have been regularly shipped by steamer to Sicamous, and thence by rail to consuming markets. Not one-tenth of the grain producing area is now under cultivation, but the stimulus and confidence which the road when extended to Okanagan lake will give the farmers will appear in an almost indefinite expansion of the natural products of these valleys.

On lake Okanagan Capt. Shorts has recently launched a new steamer 74 feet long, 16 feet beam, costing \$8,000, which will be running in about ten days, just in time to handle the crop now being harvested.

G. G. Mackey, Dr. Whetham and W. E. Thompson, of Vancouver, have recently returned from an extensive trip to Mission, in Okanagan valley, and are filled with enthusiasm in regard to the country visited. At the point where the railroad is expected to terminate on Okanagan Lake, they purchased 520 acres of land, paying \$9,000 for the tract, which they intend subdividing into a townsite.

Wood & Tunstall have a general store at Sicamous, and there is a China store well filled with Mongolian and oriental goods, and also the railroad company's store, also a hotel kept by Col. E. Forester. These with the C. P. R. station house and the dwellings of the railroad employees enumerate nearly all the structures which at present form the village of Sicamous, but its prospects are equal to any interior locality in British Columbia.—Kootenay Star.