

Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

As the days slip by the West, in common with all of Canada, and much of the world at large, is disturbed and agitated over questions of reconstruction, and during the present week the Canadian Council of Agriculture has been sitting in Winnipeg and discussing a platform, and while their meetings are not open to the press, twenty-five or thirty men cannot sit day after day without some of the points raised in the discussion becoming more or less public. The Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Agriculture, is here, partly on his own business as president of the United Grain Growers, and partly to confer with the Canadian Council of Agriculture, and it is pretty generally known that he has been called to account by the Council for not seeing to it that more practical agricultural men were appointed to the Trade Mission now overseas, and on which agricultural interests are being represented by Dr. James W. Robertson. There is no objection to Dr. Robertson, in fact there could not be, as his knowledge of things in the Old Country will be of great value, but the grain and livestock men feel that there should have been others associated with him who were more closely in touch with the grain and livestock trade. It is expected that by the end of the present week the new platform of the organized farmers will be announced.

GRAIN MARKETS.

The grain markets have been very quiet during the week. The demand for cash oats will soar for a day or two, and then slump down again, and the same is practically true of barley. The demand for flax is steadier, due doubtless to the very meagre receipts, and the need of crushers, both American and Canadian, for whatever flax they can get hold of. The collecting and shipping of the fibre flax seed grown for the British government has not yet been completed, in fact, there are small lots of it still unthreshed. Considering that it was produced in an off-season, the reports of the returns are very satisfactory, and as soon as the last lots are in, the company here will issue a report showing the highest and lowest yield and the average of yield. At present the highest yield reported is 21 bushels to the acre, which is exceptionally prolific for fibre flax.

MOVEMENT OF GRAIN.

The forward movement of grain to the lake front continues to be very slow, and nearly 50 per cent. of Canadian visible is west of the Great Lakes. During the week a number of orders of the Board of Grain Supervisors have been canceled, and there is an apparent movement in the direction of clearing up this Board, though it must remain officially in existence until the crop of 1918 is marketed and until the end of the crop year, which will be on the 31st August, 1919.

RURAL CREDITS.

There seems to have been an impetus to the organization of the Rural Credits societies since the signing of the armistice. These seem to be taking hold in the northern section of Manitoba; four applications for societies having been received within a week. The total number of these rural credit societies in Manitoba at the present time is twenty-three. They are doing good work, and the results seem to be very satisfactory. An interesting feature of the growth of these rural credits is the fact that the banks which were rather opposed to the idea at the start are now working in very cordial co-operation with the societies.

LIVESTOCK.

The livestock market has grown stronger during the week for the better class of cattle, and the intimation from Ottawa that the British Commission of Food will no longer insist on the 550 pound weight of dressed carcasses, is likely to improve the market for the lighter weights of cattle also. The liquidation of female stock, however, continues in a much greater degree than it should, and the worst feature of it is, that the better class of cows are being bought for slaughter. Packing houses pay as high as 9c. and 10c. a pound for cows that weigh from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds. The stocker and feeder market has improved, and good thrifty stockers weighing from 900 to 1,000 pounds have been bought for \$9.75 to \$10.00 during the week. For some reason the bottom of the sheep market seems to have dropped out. It is not that prices have dropped to a particularly low level, but there is a very striking absence of demand, which is difficult to account for. It is certainly not due to the province being overstocked with sheep. The provincial government is moving in the right direction to encourage production of more sheep, by encouraging the boys' and

girls' clubs to take up sheep raising, and during the week announcing the forming of sheep clubs. The sheep will be purchased by the department and will be bred to pure-bred rams this year. The ewes will all be bred before they are sent out. Another year the pure-bred rams will be stationed at various points throughout the province. The department will pay the transportation of sheep for any club, providing that there are ten members and twenty-five sheep are purchased. The Minister of Agriculture himself has announced that he will be personally responsible to the banks for the loan of money for the purchasing of sheep for any boy or girl where this is necessary.

The hog market is far from satisfactory. The Calgary market has for the past ten days been flooded with immature hogs, and now these are accumulating at Winnipeg. Hogs running from 50 to 80 pounds are coming into the yards, and have no takers. These are some of the hogs that were pro-

duced at the request of the Dominion Government, and the feeling is strong that the government should make some provision for absorbing this stock. In the matter of stocker cattle, if they cannot be sold in Canada they can always be sold in the United States, and while this is no good for building up Canadian herds it prevents loss to the owners, but no one apparently on land or sea wants these little pigs, though they are generally of good stuff, and all they want is feeding and time to finish.

INFLUENZA.

The ban that has existed with regard to influenza has been lifted, and it is hoped that the worst of the trouble is over for the present at least. The ban has certainly been a serious handicap in the matter of trade, and all lines of business have felt it very considerably, but Winnipeg has the satisfaction of having the smallest death rate per thousand of any in Western Canada, or Eastern Canada for that matter and while the ban has worked a very great hardship on some sections of the community, it is generally conceded to have been a very wise measure, especially the putting it on at the early stage of the epidemic.

WAR SAVINGS STAMPS.

A Profitable Investment.

Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, made the following statement at Ottawa recently:—

"The war savings stamp campaign has three very important objects in view—to raise money to assist in meeting the continuing heavy obligations of the war during the period of demobilization, to stimulate individual habits of thrift and benefit a large body of small investors. With some years of prosperity Canada has become largely a nation of spenders and has lost sight of the old-fashioned virtue of saving. In order to reduce the debt of nearly two billion dollars, which we shall have at the end of demobilization, we shall have to greatly increase both our national production and our national savings.

"After the Franco-Prussian War Germany exacted an indemnity of \$1,000,000,000 from France, which was paid in a few years, mainly out of the savings of the French peasantry. After the war France had a marvellous recovery, due largely to the thrift of her people. It cannot be made too plain that the liquidation of our war debt will depend upon the ability of our people to produce and save.

"Another object of war savings stamps is to bene-

fit the person who saves. The purchaser pays four dollars now and he gets five dollars in four years. It is a very simple and a very profitable investment. The Government hopes to raise at least \$50,000,000 during 1919 from the sale of war savings stamps. This is only six dollars per head of population.

"Under the method of our war financing the proceeds of the stamps will be expended entirely in Canada. The merits from the plan are so obvious from every point of view that I look forward with confidence to a general response in the full spirit of the undertaking. In all the Victory loans and patriotic endeavors during the war the Government has had the willing and enthusiastic co-operation of men in the various sections of Canada who organized and directed the various campaigns. The war has been won, but it cannot be said to be over until peace conditions are fully restored and the country is again on its normal course. The period of reconstruction presents problems almost as difficult as those of the war, and it is most essential that our ability to finance and extend credits should be maintained. I therefore appeal to all the leaders of and workers in the various war movements to assist in promoting the campaign for national thrift and saving which we are now undertaking through the national war savings committee."

WEEK'S RECORD OF ACTIVE MONTREAL STOCKS.

Sales.	Open.	High.	Low.	Last sale.	Net chge.	—YEAR—	
						High.	Low.
225 Asbestos	37	40	37	430	+2	40	15
909 Brazilian	51	51	50½	50½	-1½	60	32
1,368 Brompton	59	61½	59	61½	+2½	63½	41½
470 Can. Car.	31	31½	31	31½	+ ½	38½	18½
635 Do. pfd.	85	85	85	85	+2	92	49½
915 Canada Cement	62½	65½	62½	65½	..3¼	69½	*57
225 Canada Cottons	68	68	68	68	- ½	70	48½
620 Canada Forgings	196	201	196	199½	-5½	213	150
1,700 Can. Steamship	46	49½	46	48½	+2½	49½	39½
570 Do. Pfd.	76½	78½	76½	78½	+2½	78½	76
483 Con. Smelting	25	25	25	25	unch.	26	25
315 Dom. Cannery	30	30½	30	30½	+ ¼	43	23½
1,706 Dom. Steel	60½	62	*60	*60½	+1	65	*53
140 Carriage Factories	15	15½	15	15½	15½	15
1,582 Dom. Textile	100	100½	98½	99½	+ ¾	100½	80½
100 Lake of Woods	154	154	154	154	-2	162	130½
2,955 Laurentide	178	178	177	179	+1½	*184½	152
270 Maple Leaf	*127	*135	*127	*125	+12	140	94
9,615 Montreal Power	82½	86½	82½	85½	+2½	88½	68½
160 Quebec Ry.	18	18	17½	17½	- ¾	22½	15
225 Provincial Paper	45½	46	45½	46	+3½	46	42½
3,980 Shawinigan	116	116½	115½	115½	+ ¼	118½	107
110 Spanish River	15	15	15	15	unch.	20	13
460 St. Lawrence Flour	90	95½	90	95½	+3½	96½	50
560 Steel of Canada	59½	60½	59½	60½	+ 5	74½	*49½
329 Do. Pfd.	93½	93½	93	93	- ¾	97½	89½
330 Wayagamack	51½	51½	50½	50½	-1½	53	50
— BANKS —							
66 Montreal	210	210	210	210	unch.	*210	210
— BONDS —							
\$52,500 Asbestos	75	75	75	75	unch.	75	70
117,200 Can. Loan (1937)	95½	96½	95½	96½	+ 5	96½	91½
15,000 Cedars Rapids	88	88	88	88	- ½	88½	80
— UNLISTED SHARES. —							
435 Laurentide Power	61½	62	61½	62	unch.	62	50
600 N.A. Pulp	2½	2½	2½	2½	- ¾	4½	2½

* Ex-dividend.