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### CROP PROSPECTS IN THE WEST

#### Latest Reports Give Rise to Much More Favorable Estimates—Manitoba's Prospects are Best

Last week a report from Mr. W. J. Whiteside, of the Canadian Northern Railway, on the crop outlook in Alberta, was given in *The Monetary Times*. Regarding Saskatchewan and Manitoba he says:—

Opinion is crystallizing in Saskatchewan as regards the possibilities of the wheat and oat crop of the province, and while it is recognized the probable final figure will be materially lower than the estimates early in the season before the drought and frost became serious factors, there is in well-informed circles, an under-current of confidence that the crop will attain to totals not even regarded as possible four weeks ago. Officers of the Provincial government in close touch with the situation, indeed, made it clear here to-day that where a month ago it was considered as out of the question to anticipate a wheat yield of seventy-five million bushels, beneficial rains and other climatic developments have so altered the problem, that now it is quite possible that estimate will be attained or even exceeded.

Other competent observers, who do not desire to have their ideas quoted, are of the opinion that the figure should be closer to one hundred million than seventy-five. It may, therefore, be fairly assumed that the total yield of wheat in the province this season should be somewhere between the two figures. It might, however, go higher than one hundred million bushels, because the damage from the freak frost in the last week of July, and the benefits from rains and other favorable developments, have not been accurately determined. The revised figures for the acreage sown to wheat in Saskatchewan are 9,101,000 acres, and for oats 4,612,000 acres. The estimated acreage lost on account of drought will not exceed ten per cent. There will be cutting on all of the remaining acreage, but in the badly frosted districts the product will be for feed for stock instead of breadstuffs for the allies. That is in wheat.

In oats, the greatest acreage, and always the best oat country is in the north, and the northern crop this year should be heavy. Present indications of labor needed from outside points are, that not more than five thousand men will be required. It may be more, but at the department of agriculture it is stated to be impossible to say definitely until crop queries now in the hands of representatives throughout the province, have been returned and studied.

#### Probable Production in Manitoba.

The crops in Manitoba seem to have suffered the least of the three prairie provinces from the vagaries of climate. While in the early weeks high, hot winds swept large areas and damaged possibly seven per cent. of the entire seeded acreage, it is declared in government offices here that acreage has not been lost by any means, and to set against this there was a considerably increased acreage seeded, and the damage from frost was negligible. Accordingly, the official expectation here is for an average production, or what approximates an average production, while there are declared to

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be indications that if the prevailing favorable weather continues the total yield might exceed the average.

The latest government crop estimates show an acreage seeded to wheat within the province slightly in excess of three million one hundred thousand. The average yield in wheat in Manitoba for the last ten years is 17.5 bushels to the acre. Let this be reduced to 15 bushels for the more than three million acres declared to have been sown, and the result should be in the vicinity of 45,000,000 bushels. This, of course, does not take into consideration a possible loss in acreage on account of wind, but it is felt that the paring of two and a half bushels off the average for the last ten years will provide against any loss in the total on that score. There were seeded to oats in Manitoba this year, as closely as may be figured now, 1,930,000 acres. The average in oats for the decade, (1907-1916), is 38.3 bushels to the acre. If this be reduced two bushels, and the result be taken roughly as thirty-five, the approximate yield should be 67,500,000 bushels. The acreage sown to barley is estimated as being 1,193,000. In this cereal the average yield for ten years has been 27.1 bushels to the acre. So, the government officers feel confident in placing the totals expected in barley at around thirty million bushels. When the three grains are totalled, therefore, Manitoba should have, in the event of present weather, or something like it, continuing, a total crop of more than 140,000,000 bushels.

The labor problem appears to be fairly well in hand. Conferences were held here yesterday, and it is considered that if three thousand men are brought into the province from outside points to help in the earlier operations, requirements should be met. Later on, for thrashing operations, there would, of course, be a greater need, but it is not anticipated that the total help required should exceed five thousand men. Manitoba looks to the eastern provinces for this help and feels reasonably confident, having in view all the conditions, she will not look in vain.

### DOUBLE INCOME TAX TO GO

The delegation of United States citizens from Canada which recently visited Washington and called the attention of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives to the double income tax to which they were subject, met with a favorable reception. They were advised by Mr. Claude Kitchen, chairman of the committee, that an arrangement would probably be made whereby United States citizens resident in Canada would continue to pay both Canadian and United States income taxes, but that in the case of the latter the amount of the Canadian tax would be deducted. Accordingly, where the Canadian tax is as large as the United States tax, there will be nothing to be paid to the United States government, otherwise there will be a balance.

On the 13th instant the council of the municipality of Saanich, B.C., adopted a resolution increasing the wages of some of the municipal employees.