

WESTERN CANADA

Crop Conditions Are Excellent—Grain Growers Lease Government Elevators—General Lookout is Encouraging—Many Industrial Developments

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The outlook for a splendid crop in practically all parts of Western Canada is bright. Abundant rains have fallen during the past fortnight which have been of great value to the crops, so that unless the unforeseen happens a bountiful harvest is assured. Warm weather is needed to develop the wheat, as it has been somewhat backward in that regard.

Taken altogether, the West is in splendid condition, prospects are good for an earlier harvest by at least two weeks than last year. The big trouble will be the getting of sufficient labor and the necessary railroad facilities. If all things are as should be regarding the weather, there will undoubtedly be much congestion, even though the railroads strain every effort to handle the crop, as we understand they are doing.

Extensions in Other Lines.

No other company handles so much wheat as does the Grain Growers' Grain Company. But nevertheless the directors have in view a vast extension of the company's business along other lines. The company, for instance, has a weekly paper, The Grain Growers' Guide, which is now on a good financial footing. It contemplates entering into the supplying of lumber and for that purpose has secured a controlling interest in timber limits of British Columbia on which 300,000,000 feet stand. Control of coal areas is looked for also. Meanwhile negotiations are pending for the leasing of a terminal elevator at the lake front from the Canadian Pacific Railway and negotiations have been completed for the leasing of the elevators which the Manitoba Government purchased and failed to operate successfully. Another enterprise is the control of a loan company through which loans can be made to farmers at a lesser rate than now prevails.

An important announcement following the annual meeting of the Grain Growers' Grain Company, of Winnipeg, which was held last week was the leasing by the company of the 173 elevators from the Manitoba Government for approximately \$75,000 a year, or six per cent. of their value.

This action of the Grain Growers should tend to relieve the situation among farmers in the various localities where the elevators are.

Growth of Wheat Shipments.

On the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught to the Winnipeg Grain Exchange during his sojourn in the city the council of the Exchange presented him with a statement of facts regarding the business now handled in this city. The following paragraph is taken from this report: "The first export shipment of grain from the Canadian west was less than two hundred bushels, and was sent out in sacks. To-day grain is shipped by the carload, in trains running as high as fifty to sixty cars each. We have, at the head of the Canadian lakes, 30,000,000 bushels storage capacity; the Canadian fleet of lake freighters has a capacity of 9,000,000 bushels; and our ports are thronged during the open water with the enormous lake freighters from the American ports. The first shipment went out in bags, on a river steamer to St. Paul. To-day freighters carrying 360,000 bushels sail from our lake ports to eastern terminals. Winnipeg as a handler of grain has surpassed the famous markets of Chicago and Minneapolis, in 1911, 101,320,250 bushels of wheat being handled at Winnipeg, as against 96,647,850 bushels at Minneapolis, and 42,629,751 bushels at Chicago."

The bright crop prospects has had its good effects and has stimulated confidence in the general outlook.

Loan companies report an active business for this time of year. Many farmers were in the city during the past week attending the Industrial Exhibition and incidentally attending to business. Exhibition week is always a busy one with wholesale and other business houses.

Collections are quiet and not up to expectations, but during the next ten days an improvement is confidently looked for.

Many Cities' Activity.

Over \$13,000,000 has been expended in new buildings in Winnipeg this year, and the figure is increasing at the rate of \$100,000 a day. On an average thirty permits a day since April 1 have been granted at the building inspector's office, which continues to be one of the most active spots in the city. Residences, factories, stores, apartment blocks, warehouses, churches and office buildings are equally balanced in the big expenditure. The Canadian Pacific Railway will in 1913 build a new station in Moose Jaw at an approximate

cost of \$750,000. Plans for the structure are already past the sketch stage, and are at present being completed at Winnipeg.

Commissioner Casson returned to Estevan from Winnipeg this week, bringing with him the documents closing the deal between the Canadian Northern Railway and the International Harvester Company. The latter will at once erect temporary warehouses and establish its distributing depot at Estevan.

Permits have been taken out in the town for business blocks, bank buildings, warehouses and residences to the value of \$411,006. This marks a new high water mark in activity and gives a conception of the progress citywards which Yorkton this year is making.

Calgary and the Motor Industry.

"It costs about \$125 per carload to ship motor cycles to the West, whereas the cost of shipping raw material for a similar number of cycles would only be about \$25," is one of the statements in a letter received from the head of a firm of motor manufacturers by Commissioner McDonald, of Regina.

Mr. McDonald has been in communication with this firm for some weeks past, and says that there is but little doubt that a plant will be established at Regina, providing sufficient stock will be subscribed by Regina citizens to warrant the opening of a branch here.

The Alliance Securities, Limited, have in view the erection of a handsome four story brick and stone office building on a valuable business site at Edmonton. The new building will be known as the Alliance block.

HILL ROADS IN CANADA.

The Canadian Northern Railway has granted trackage rights from Emerson, Man., on the international boundary line, to Winnipeg, 68 miles, to a new company formed in the interest of the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific. The new corporation is known as the Midland Railway of Manitoba. The agreement is for 20 years with a provision for extending it to a total of 99 years.

Trains of the United States roads are allowed to be run into Winnipeg but are not to do any local business unless by order of the Railway Commission, in which case the Canadian Northern is to have 80% of the gross receipts. The rental of the Winnipeg Terminal is to be \$2.50 for each revenue train movement, with 50 cents additional for every car above eight, and certain other charges.

The line to be used is a part of the 355 miles of Northern Pacific's road in Manitoba, all of which was leased in 1901 to the provisional government for 99 years and sub-leased by it to the Canadian Northern.

BUILDING ACTIVE AT WEYBURN.

The following buildings have been completed this year or are in course of construction at Weyburn:—

Department store, five stories, 100 x 120, for the McKinnon company, to cost \$100,000; business block, one story, with provision for five, 100 x 120, for Dr. Mitchell, to cost \$45,000; Collegiate Institute, to cost \$80,000; post office and customs house, to cost \$65,000; Canadian Pacific Railway depot, to cost \$50,000; Canadian Pacific Railway freight sheds, addition, \$15,000; warehouse and store for the Saskatchewan Furniture Company; Weyburn Sash and Door and Glass Company, factory; Weyburn Bottling Company, factory; Canadian City and Town Properties, Limited, Winnipeg, office building; Anglican church, addition; Last West Lumber Company, complete yards and sheds; Western Canada Sawmills Company, complete yards and sheds; Rogers Lumber Company, complete yards and sheds; Mr. F. St. John, livery barn; Mr. H. A. Staveley, office building; Messrs. Goodwyn & Company, Winnipeg, office building; Walker Lumber Company, office building; Mr. M. F. Brown, business block; one hundred and twenty houses, including \$20,000 residence for Mr. F. Moffett.

The buildings for which plans are in course of preparation are as follows:—

Municipal hospital; telephone exchange; Weyburn Creamery Company, factory; Canadian City and Town Properties, Limited, Winnipeg, business block, 100 x 110, to cost \$90,000, two stories; Messrs. W. B. Proctor & Company, Toronto, business block, 50 x 120, to cost \$60,000, four stories; Messrs. Mergens & Moffett, Weyburn, business block, 60 x 120, to cost \$60,000, two stories; Mr. R. E. Sinclair, Toronto, business block, 100 x 120, two stories, to cost \$75,000; one hundred and fifty houses.

The following buildings are those contemplated and under consideration:—

Steam laundry, tent and mattress factory, fire hall, city hall, hotel by Toronto syndicate, business block by Newfoundland syndicate.