

within a fair step from the city. Brawny, brown Japanese laborers were seen dividing labor with the slow-going Chinamen. They were giving an Oriental touch to the art of hose-cleaning ice for train travellers. Incidentally, a new paint was being daubed upon the Canadian labor picture. Another man, whose sunny Italy complexion was hidden beneath black grime, was asked a question. "I don't know," he replied; "I have only been in the city twenty-four hours." This Alberta centre, as are others, is absorbing new population. One man at least managed to get up to his neck in Medicine Hat soil within a day.

Difficult it is to guess who are the individuals making up the city's five thousand population. One little fellow, fifty years of age perhaps, walked into a local hotel. For three days he was a guest who spent money with recklessness. You could have stood him upright beneath a horse's belly. But he was big enough to carry six thousand dollars added to his fortune in exchange for a beef sale. His annual celebration of this event occupied three days. Then back to the quarters where beef is brought up on four legs.

The Hat, as the city is familiarly known, possesses sufficient elasticity to suit any size in heads of enterprise. Medicine Hat has agricultural and other charms, but only its natural gas and typical hustle will win the manufacturing honors.

F. W. F.

WHEAT MOVEMENT IN THE WEST.

New High Record will be Established this Year—Large Increase of Stocks—Meeting of Grain Standards Board.

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, October 13th.

The heavy movement of wheat in the West this year so early in the season shows that a new high record mark has been reached. The crop movement for September passes anything in the history of the railways, and the returns from the Chief Inspector's office at Winnipeg for the past month shows the following cars of wheat passed inspection;—9,847 against 2,046 in 1907, and 7,085 in 1906, and 6,108 in 1905. This year can hardly be taken as a fair comparison, owing to the fact that the harvest was abnormally late, but in 1906 and 1905 the harvest was, if anything, a little earlier than it was this year.

It had been expected that inspections for the present year would pass those of a year ago, but the above figures which show inspections for 1906 and 1905 are also considerably exceeded. The opinion among shippers was that the wheat upon reaching Winnipeg was not being rushed forward to the lake port as quickly as it should. The inspector's office at Fort William substantiates this view, as out of 9,847 cars inspected nearly 7,000 had reached the lake front, while the remainder were absorbed by the large milling companies at Winnipeg and Calgary.

It was generally expected at the beginning of last week that prices would decline owing to the great increase in the visible supplies and the large primary movement of wheat over the North American Continent. But the reports of the political situation in south-eastern Europe, and the threatened outbreak of hostilities, created a nervous feeling and caused a decided advance instead of the anticipated decline. Another factor which contributed to this result was a continuance of

dry weather throughout the winter-wheat districts, with no indications of a change. The market fluctuated on the varying reports as to the possibility of war, and with so uncertain an element, operative traders were cautious. Assisted by higher cables, prices gradually advanced towards the end of the week, and cash wheat, and options closed from 1 to 3 cents higher than the previous Saturday's quotations in both the local and American markets.

Increase in Visible Supply.

The outstanding feature at the present time is the extensive movement and the rapid and large increase in stocks. The number of cars inspected daily at Winnipeg is many hundreds in excess of those of the corresponding period last year, while a similar movement on a large scale has been taking place at the United States central points of accumulation. Last week, the American visible supply increased nearly 4½ million; at the same time, exports of wheat and flour equal to 7¼ million bushels were reported. So rapid and extensive have been the changes in the American Visible Supply this year as compared with 1907, that while on August 24th last the visible stood at 16¾ million bushels against 51½ last year, on October the 5th it stood at 34¼ as compared with 43¾ for the same period in 1907. The world's visible supply shows an increase in the three weeks ending the 3rd inst., of over 31 million bushels, as against an increase of slightly under 9 million for the same period last year. While this great increase in visible supplies is taking place, large world's shipments by America and the Danube have to be noted. Russia shows a considerable falling off in exports. Wheat on ocean passage increased 4 million bushels, the total standing at 34¾ million against 32¼ for corresponding week last year. Notwithstanding this increase the European visible supply is still about 10 million bushels below what it was a year ago.

There is general expectation that the primary movement of American and Canadian wheat will soon fall off to smaller proportions. In several parts of the West there are complaints of car shortage, while the elevators are full and unable to handle more grain until the railway service relieves them. At the same time, probably not more than half the crop has been threshed. These operations are being vigorously pushed. Conditions have been favorable for a large amount of fall ploughing being done, and thus a large percentage of land will be ready for seeding in the spring.

On the Winnipeg market, there has been only a moderate demand for cash wheat during the week, exporters doing only a limited business. The demand for flour continues good, and the situation points to a firm market. Cash I Northern closed on Saturday at 99c. as against 97c. the previous Saturday, while October options were quoted at 98¾ against 96½, November, 96¾ against 94¾; December, 93¾ against 91½, and May, 98 against 97¾.

Need for Terminal Clearing-House.

A meeting of the Grain Standards Board was held last week in Winnipeg to consider the grading of wheat for the present season. Several important matters were brought up at the meeting, principal among which was the need for a terminal clearing-house. In connection with this, the committee made a request that the various terminal elevators make arrangements for a clearing-house system. It was urged that with so many different grades now being stored, it was often impossible for boats to get their full load at the one elevator, having often to go to several elevators before they can complete their loads. One representative of the terminal elevators stated that his elevator had stored 58 varieties, being grades or sub-divisions of grades. The commercial grades selected closely resemble those of last year.

The Bank of Montreal have purchased one of the most prominent corners of Winnipeg as a location for a new bank building. The south-east corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street, which is now known as the Canada Permanent Block, is the site referred to, and the deal involves some \$300,000. The property has a frontage of 128 feet on Main Street and 238 feet on Portage Avenue, and will be a most advantageous corner for a handsome bank building. The sale was made by Mr. G. M. Black, of the firm of Robinson & Black, real estate, insurance and financial agents.

A final test was made last week of the Winnipeg High Pressure System. It was in every way satisfactory. The gas producer, which was said not to have fulfilled requirements at previous tests, did its work perfectly for the twelve hours of the test as the contract requires. The plant will at once be taken over by the city.

Virgin Lands of Alberta.

Mr. Chas. Roland, of the Winnipeg Development and Industrial Bureau, speaks in glowing terms of the country along the Canadian Northern Railway stretching for three hundred miles east of Edmonton. To those who wish to confine their energies to the growing of grain, he says, there is perhaps no finer stretch of clear open rolling prairie land west of the Great Lakes. "So new, so virgin are the lands

WANTED

By a young man with six years' banking experience. Graduate of Toronto University. Position of Trust in Ontario. References furnished. Address,

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