

OPTIMISTIC FEELING IN CALGARY

Crops Averaging Better than Expected—Collections Satisfactory—Strong Victory Loan Organization—Alberta Flour Mills, Limited

(Staff Correspondence.)

Calgary, October 25, 1918.

Thrashing is now practically completed in the West and, on the whole, is averaging much better than was generally expected. The district around Calgary and especially in Southern Alberta, is no exception. Some farmers have very little indeed for their summer's work, while others have received a good average crop, more particularly on land that was well farmed. In an interview with James W. Davidson, of the firm of Beiseker and Davidson, Calgary, large dealers in Alberta farm lands, when asked as to how collections and general conditions would be this fall, he said:—

"Collections on land contracts in that portion of Alberta, which is generally operated from Calgary are proving much better than indications warranted some three or four months ago. While the crop was generally light, perhaps not averaging over one-third of last year's yield, still there are a considerable number of farmers who have obtained sufficient to give them, at present prices, gross returns quite equalling, if not exceeding, the income from crops previous to the war.

"Where a farmer is blessed with grown-up sons to care for the labor, and obtained even a small crop, such parties have a good net return, and this is evident in the number of our contracts upon which we have received payment during the past few weeks, made in advance of due date. Furthermore, even in the case of farmers with practically no crop, we find, in many instances, that they have other resources and quite a number of substantial payments have been received from such parties during the past month.

"The partial failure of crops seems not to have created a pessimistic feeling. From all reports the farmers who have the land and the labor to work it are preparing for a larger acreage than ever during the coming season.

Large Scale Farming not Good.

"The individual that is suffering is the farmer or land owner who is operating on a large scale and is dependent upon hired labor. In fact, it would appear that the days of the big farm are drawing to a close in Alberta. Labor has not only demanded an unreasonable wage, but, generally speaking, has been decidedly inefficient and anarchistic. As one of the largest operators informed me at an auction sale, a few days ago, at which the last of his outfit was being disposed of: 'Formerly I told my men what to do; this year they told me what to do.' Stock ranching, which can be cared for with a minimum of outside labor, is appealing to many of these people, and I believe we will see in the coming year many of the large grain farms for sale. Either that, or they will be split up into units and rented to or worked on shares by men who have in their own family the bulk of the labor required. The man with a big family of husky sons has the greatest opportunity for profitable farming that has, I believe, ever been known.

"There is still considerable activity in sales, though the demand this autumn has been more largely for our mixed farming lands in the Airdrie and Crossfield districts, than for the exclusively grain lands further east."

Southern Alberta Victory Loan.

Mr. Wm. Toole, of the firm of Toole, Peet and Company, Calgary, chairman of the Southern Alberta Victory Loan organization, and Mr. G. R. Marnoch, president of the Lethbridge Board of Trade, vice-chairman, along with the rest of the executive committee, have put some unique effort into the present campaign. They issued a most convincing story of the present loan which will, undoubtedly, "go well over the top" in their district, in six different languages—Russian, Ruthenian, Polish, Italian, French and German. In discussing the ultimate success of the loan with Mr. Marnoch, vice-chairman, he spoke of these people as "the people who come from somewhere," stating in a circular to the organizations in the various districts that: "We are all foreigners in Canada, bar the Red Indians, and we do well to remind ourselves occasionally that we invited these people to come here to hew our wood, to draw our water, and to mine our coal; and to re-

member that we altogether neglected our duty to help them to become responsible citizens of our country.

"They made big purchases of Victory Bonds last year, and helped Southern Alberta to make the wonderful showing that we did. Those of them who have Victory Bonds have discovered the benefit of the investment, and they have been telling their neighbors that they have got their first payment of interest.

"We know that they possess large amounts of currency, which they hide or carry about with them. They used to send their money to the countries of their origin, but they know now that that is very unsafe and that taxation will be very heavy in all those countries. You should see to it they get to understand that Victory Bonds are free from taxation by the Dominion Government."

In another circular issued by Mr. Toole and Mr. Marnoch they state: "Although Germany is beaten, there may be quite a little way to travel yet before the poor deluded common people of Germany fully discover that they mistook a man-made machine for their own human soul.

"If the answer to their request for an armistice be 'See Foch,' let your answer to your country's request now be: 'If you want money—See me.'"

In regard to the Mennonites, about whom there has been considerable controversy recently, Mr. Marnoch mentioned that they expected to get good subscriptions from some of these people, pointing out that away back 44 years ago, the Dominion government lent this sect in Alberta \$80,000, and that, as one of them remarked, they were not going to forget this when the government needed money, Sir Thomas White giving them the assurance that the government would see that their subscription would be used for relief purposes—such as hospitals, etc.

Alberta Flour Mills, Limited.

There is at the present time in Calgary, in the course of construction, a new flour mill, which, when completed, will be one of the largest and most up-to-date in Western Canada. The mill will be of a 6,000-barrel per day capacity, with terminal elevator to store 1,000,000 bushels of wheat. All to be constructed of reinforced concrete.

Alberta Flour Mills, Limited, is incorporated under the "Companies Act, Part 1," of the Dominion of Canada, with an authorized capital of \$5,000,000, divided into 50,000 shares of the par value of \$100 each. Official permission for the issue of these securities (or shares) as required by order-in-council (3439, of December 22, 1917), has been duly obtained. The directors of the company are: Mr. Geo. Lane, president, president of Geo. Lane, Limited, ranchmen, farmers and livestock dealers; Mr. A. E. Cross, vice-president, president of the Calgary Brewing and Malting Company, Limited, ranchman and farmer; Mr. Edward E. Stevens, general manager, is from Minneapolis, where he has had a life-long experience in the domestic sale and export of flour; Mr. Wm. Pearce, late statistician Dominion Economic and Development Commission and Fellow Royal Geographical Society; Colonel J. S. Dennis, ex-president Engineering Institute of Canada; Dan E. Riley, one of the leading ranchmen and farmers of Southern Alberta.

The directors have brought to Calgary the latest equipment to build the plant with the greatest labor saving devices and least expense. Mr. Alex. Ingraham, president the Willford Manufacturing Company, of Minneapolis, a milling engineer of over 30 years' successful experience, is overseeing the construction work and is the designer of both mill and elevator. The head office of the company is in Calgary, where the securities of the company are being handled direct. No bonus stock or promotion stock is to go to any person; directors and investors alike are paying par for their stock.

Alberta now raises quantities of as high grade wheat as is raised anywhere in the world, and the building of a 6,000 barrel per day flour mill at Calgary brings to attention the new routings westward and the almost unlimited opportunities extended to the mills of the West by the Panama Canal and the Asiatic markets.

The Loaning Situation.

Mr. William Toole, manager of the Canada Life Assurance Company, Investment Department, for Southern Alberta, when interviewed by *The Monetary Times*, said:—

"General loaning conditions might be much worse. After all, Alberta is a most fortunate province endowed with extraordinary recuperative capabilities. Conditions in Alberta are