

the so-called unfavorable Government crop report. However, it is doubtful if this document had a great deal to do in inducing selling of stocks. In spite of the reductions of estimates the 1911 crops in the United States promise to prove eminently satisfactory. In some quarters, notably in regard to cotton, the outlook is for record breaking figures.

However, it would be but natural if the unsettlement at London reacted importantly on New York. The two markets are intimately connected, perhaps more intimately than any other two markets. Then the threatened labor troubles in connection with the railroad field in the Western States, which were referred to by THE CHRONICLE a week ago, helped to weaken the market's position. And it appears that certain big market leaders in the metropolis have made use of the retirement of a well known capitalist from the Harriman directorates as a means of breaking the stock market. So far as conditions in the United States are concerned it can be said that they are shaping themselves for improvement in industry and trade and that Wall Street will probably reflect the improved conditions in the course of time.

Monetary conditions in the Dominion are unchanged. Call loans in Montreal and Toronto are $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 p.c. Naturally the breaks in Wall Street and the uneasiness in London have affected the tone of the Canadian markets. But speaking generally the behavior of the home markets has been orderly, giving evidence of control. Reports from Western Canada indicate that wheat cutting has commenced. It will, however, be a few days yet, before harvesting operations there are general. It is not believed that the damage from black rust will amount to much. But the condition of the grain deteriorated in some degree as a result of the protracted season of cold wet weather experienced at the end of July and in the first week of August. The necessity of caring for the big wheat crop will probably make the election contest in Western Canada less exciting. In Eastern Canada the struggle is proving exceedingly bitter.

THE BANKS' CIRCULATION.

It is stated that one of the leading banks, which has its head office in Montreal, has this week been paying out Dominion legal tender, owing to its circulation having reached the ordinary limit.

The "excess" circulation—15 p.c. of the banks' combined paid-up capital and rest—will not be available for another six weeks—on October 1—and it is quite possible that in the interval other banks will be compelled to follow this example as their circulation rises to its ordinary limit of the amount of the paid-up capital.

THE GRESHAM LIFE.

Mr. Archibald R. Howell has been appointed manager for Canada of the Gresham Life, which is completing the necessary arrangements for opening up a branch office here, with headquarters at Montreal.

Mr. Howell is well-known in the life insurance field in Canada. He graduated in the Faculty of Arts at McGill University in 1896, entered the service of the Royal Insurance Company in 1902 in connection with its life branch, and was promoted to the position of superintendent of the life department in 1905, since which date he has held that office, now under the title of secretary. The new business of the Royal, in Canada, which has grown largely during Mr. Howell's occupancy of his present position, was last year \$1,500,000.

The general manager of the Gresham, Mr. James H. Scott, having completed his arrangements, intends to return to London, sailing by the "Laurentic" on Saturday morning, August 19. Later on, it is the intention of the Gresham to open a fire branch in Canada, and probably one or two other branches, which, however, will be under entirely separate management.

MONTREAL INSURANCE RATES.

According to newspaper reports, the fire offices will in all probability have their Montreal business regulated at the City Hall. It is quite true that improvements in water pressure, in equipment and in the general efficiency of the Fire Brigade have taken place. These improvements have been recognised by periodical reductions in rates and the removal of what was known as the surcharge. The sum of \$2,500,000, it is alleged, has been expended for the improvement of the waterworks system, etc. It must, however, be borne in mind that this expenditure has been incurred largely to meet the needs of the rapidly growing city, and the annexation of suburbs. Considering the rapidity of the growth of the city, which is evidenced by the increase in property values, and in population, etc., it is questionable whether this expenditure is in keeping therewith.

The insurance officials say that no steps have yet been taken to instal a high-pressure system in the congested area, such as is in vogue in the cities of Toronto and Winnipeg. And it must not be forgotten that we still have those dangerous and unsightly overhead wires. The contemplated improvement in the building laws, if carried into effect, will no doubt warrant the companies in, to a certain extent, reducing rates for the best class of risks.

It must not be lost sight of, that the cost of conflagrations, which occur periodically, has to be met and a few reasonably good years are required for the purpose of making up the loss caused by these conflagrations.