

Conditions in the West

Southern Alberta Crop Excellent ; Marked Change from 1914.

Special Correspondence by E. CORA HIND, Commercial and Agricultural Editor, Free Press, Winnipeg, Man.

Since Monday morning I have been touring Southern Alberta, that is the section West from Medicine Hat to Calgary and south of the main line of the C. P. R. to the boundary or rather so far towards the boundary as crop extends. Have motored over 350 miles and travelled nearly double that amount by train and the experience has been a wonderful one especially when contrasted with conditions in Manitoba, reported last week, but more especially when contrasted with Southern Alberta in August, 1914. Then except for the small portion under irrigation, it was parched with drought, now it is literally a smiling paradise. You stand up on a motor car and as far as eye can carry across the willing plains there are literary seas of wheat, reddish gold in the early fields and all stages of green and gold on the later fields, the wheat is interspersed with lush fields of oats, Alfalfa, just being cut for the second crop, and meadow lands green with aftermath and dotted thick with great stacks of Timothy and Western Rye grass, or Alfalfa carefully covered with thatch or tarpaulin to protect its color and flavor.

But these are not the only contrasts with 1914. Everywhere, no matter how big the wheat fields, there are cattle and horses and sheep and great stretches of beautifully worked summerfallow and Sunny Southern Alberta learned her bitter lesson in 1914 and she will never suffer to the same extent again. Even in that year of drought there were oases in the desert, they were the very few fields that had been properly fallowed, and the farmers who had some stock on the foothills and on the deep counties were not without some source of income.

Only those who have seen both sides of the picture can appreciate what two years of farming along

right lines and assisted by an adequate rainfall have accomplished. In 1915 Southern Alberta had the most wonderful crop in her history, she is still shipping it out, indeed quite a number of her farmers have sold quantities ranging from 5,000 to 12,000 bushels on this last rise of the market. The Lethbridge division of the C. P. R. which is the territory referred to in the first paragraph has shipped 27,500,000 bushels of wheat alone, and 9,500,000 bushels of other grains and has still on a conservative reckoning 2,000,000 bushels still to come out.

Stand of Wheat Heavy.

Owing to shortage of labor last spring and the desire to have big summerfallows, the areas in crop in 1916 are not so large, but the stand of wheat especially is so heavy and heads so well filled that territory will probably produce 22,000,000 bushels and possibly 25,000,000 if frost should hold off until the middle of September, thereby permitting all the late fields to ripen without depreciation of grade or yield. There never was a healthier crop grown in any country, there is no sign of rust or smut and remarkably few weeds.

The crop is still liable to depreciation from frost as cutting will not be general for another ten days, but the weather now is ideal and has every appearance of being settled, so that from this section of the great West it is reasonable to look for a large quantity of high grade wheat.

I am proceeding now to the inspection of the Northern part of Alberta and will go from there into Saskatchewan.

Wheat prices have continued to run riot and have very close to the high water mark of 1914.

WESTERN CROP NEWS.

Harvesting has commenced in many parts of the West and more definite information is therefore coming to hand regarding the extent of damage from rust and other causes. Miss Hind's report, as above on the outlook in Southern Alberta is most encouraging, while the report of the United Farmers of Alberta states that "the wheat fields of southern Alberta will average 38 bushels to the acre. Along the line of the Canadian Northern railway the yield will be better than 40 bushels to the acre. In other parts the yield will be well over 30 bushels to the acre for all of Alberta."

Andrew Kelley, of the Western Canada Flour Mills, was quoted on Wednesday of last week as saying that "the crops in northern Alberta and northern Saskatchewan are the finest he has seen. They will not possibly yield quite as heavy as last year, but in appearance they are superior to the 1915 crop."

The report of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is discouraging, however. Further rust damage in the central and northern parts of the Province during the past week has influenced the Department to predict a yield of not more than 12 to 14 bushels of wheat per acre this year. Black rust has been reported from almost every other quarter of the Province and a crop somewhat similar to that of 1914 is expected. Early wheat is escaping rust fairly well but in many such cases quality was impaired by heat and blight and the yield will be disappointing.

ONTARIO CROP REPORT.

Statistics compiled by the Ontario Bureau of Industries show that every staple crop of the 1916 season is to yield less per acre than in 1915. Out of seven crops quoted the estimated yield of four will be above the average yield per acre over a 34 year period. These four are fall wheat, spring wheat, oats and rye. Barley, peas and beans will go below the average yield for the lengthy period.

The following estimates have been submitted, the figures expressing number of bushels per acre less than for the same crop last year: Fall wheat, 8.3; spring wheat, 3.9; barley, 10.0; oats, 12.9; rye, 1.1; peas, 1.0; beans, 3.1.

Hay and clover will run about .8 of a ton to the acre better than last season. The yield is above the 34 year average.

FRUIT PULP IN UNITED KINGDOM.

Trade advices from the United Kingdom state that manufacturers of jams and preserves are facing a shortage of fruit pulp. The chief varieties in demand are strawberry, apricot, raspberry and black currant. In normal times apricot pulp is largely obtained from Spain, and strawberry, raspberry and black currant from Holland. Australia and New Zealand also supply raspberry and black currant pulp. A certain amount is also made in the United Kingdom and more will probably be made this year on account of the scarcity of sugar.

Since the commencement of the war practically nothing has arrived from Holland and only fifty per cent. of the importations of the year 1915 are to be permitted after October 31st, from Spain. Very little pulp is coming at the present time from Australia and New Zealand. It is stated that there ought to be a good market for Canadian fruit pulp.

WORLD'S WHEAT PROSPECTS.

A Rome dispatch says: The international Institute of Agriculture in its last report says that with harvesting completed in most European countries, the indications are that the world's wheat supply for 1916 will be almost 25 per cent less than a year ago.

It is pointed out, however, that 1915 was a banner year, and that the new crop will be nearly up to the average yield between 1900 and 1913. The gathering in of crops on a large scale is now limited to North America, Great Britain, Russia and Scandinavia.

The barley crop of the world is estimated at 20 per cent. less than last year, although five per cent. above the average. The total yield of oats is forecast at 22 per cent. less than in 1915, but 15 per cent. above the average.

THE WORLD'S NEEDS.

Broomhall estimates the wheat requirements of importing countries this year at 592,000,000 bushels, with prospective supplies from Australia, Argentine, India and Russia amounting to 216,000,000 bushels. North America will be called upon for the balance, about 354,000,000 bushels, against 400,000,000 last year.

Empire Cotton Mills Welland, Ontario Limited

Manufacturers of

Textiles, Sail Duck, Bag Cloths and Seamless Bags

Write for Quotations

The Ellis Drier Company

Drying Engineers and Contractors

Complete Grain Drying Plants Our Specialty

Postal Telegraph Bldg., Chicago, U.S.A.

British Grain and Flour Importers

Cables: Byrne, Dublin

Oxley, London

BYRNE, MAHONY & CO.

Flour and Grain Importers

London, Dublin, Aberdeen, Belfast.

Telegraphic Address, "Delight, Glasgow" Riverside and "Delight, Dublin" ABC Codes

D. T. RUSSELL & BAIRD

IMPORTERS OF GRAIN AND FLOUR

73 Robertson St., GLASGOW, Scotland

10 Burgh Quay - - - DUBLIN

Cable Address, "Success," Glasgow

GEORGE M. THOMSON & CO.

FLOUR IMPORTERS

8 Wellington St., Glasgow, Scotland

CANADIAN PULP SHIPMENTS.

Over two-thirds of the more than a billion pounds of wood pulp imported into the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1916, and used in the manufacture of paper, came from Canada, according to a communication to the National Geographic Society, and issued by the society as a bulletin in connection with the Government's inquiry into the increase in the cost of newspaper.

The pulp importations for 1915-16 have been 180,000,000 pounds less than for the previous twelve months, yet the amount shipped to us from Canada during the past year was 130,000,000 pounds in excess of her 1914-15 shipments.

During the year just closed nearly 70 per cent. of our 1,135,000 pounds of pulp came from our neighbor to the north, while most of the remaining 30 per cent. come from Norway and Sweden.

The new elevators building this year will bring the combined grain capacity at Fort William and Port Arthur, Ontario, to 47,085,000 bushels in addition to the hospital elevators of 900,000 bushels' capacity.

Week

Now the business is in optimistic mood. Business continues good. Government means increase in full force. Local wheat market. Dry over last. Continue high. Withdrawn. Cation of. Exceeding.

The flour. 30 cents. The price. Feed has.

Dairy. Week saw. Cheese. Are steady.

The live. Lower on.

Dun's. West sent. The report. Exaggerated. A heavy. Winnipeg. Well above. Merchants. Most all. Proven. Prices for. Feeling a. Fidelity. Edmonton. Well maintained. Parations. Kinds of. The outlook. Bright.

Regina. Merchants. Outcome.

MONT. Offerings. Cattle for. The early. Tained a. Common. Demand. Butchers. Cwt. low. A decline. Ing easily. Quiet, but. Tone pre.

TORO. The demand. Ings pri. And pri. Lambs v. Quota.

Butcher. Do., g. Do., fa. Do., m. Do., r. Butcher. Do., fa. Do., co. Butcher. Do., fa. Do., m. Light e. Heavy. Lambs. Hogs, se. Do., f. water. Do., r. mixed. Calves,