

Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

The weather for the past week has been rather uncertain. The 5th, 6th and 7th were delightful days of almost summer heat. On the night of the 7th, the weather turned very cold and wet with heavy frosts on the nights of the 8th, 9th and 10th, and quite heavy rains on the 10th at many points throughout the West which stopped threshing. The weather is now clear and bright and threshing will be resumed today. It is not thought that the frost would lessen the yield of wheat, though in some districts, it will reduce the grade of some fields, but late oats and late barley have suffered considerably from these frosts, but to what extent will not be known until these grains are threshed. Threshing returns from wheat are exceptionally gratifying. In almost every case reports of yields are higher than had been anticipated. During the week a statement of acreage seeded was issued by the Provincial and Dominion governments jointly, and in this new statement, the acreage in wheat for the Province of Manitoba is materially increased, so much so that it would indicate nearly an additional 6,000,000 bushels over and above the recent estimate. In Saskatchewan, however, the wheat acreage is 102,000 acres less than originally reported. The Provincial Government of Saskatchewan are now estimating the yield at 10.8, which on the new acreage would give them 98,000,000. No fresh figures have so far been published for Alberta, but the publicity commissioner of that province is claiming very much higher yields than anybody else has been able to discover, and everyone will sincerely hope that his estimate is the correct one.

During the week the Winnipeg Grain Exchange held its annual meeting, and the retiring president, W. R. Bawlf took the opportunity to set before the public the condition in which the grain trade has suffered during the past year. Everything has been practically controlled by the Wheat Export Company and as this whole question of grain handling is of such vital importance to Canada, I am quoting a couple of paragraphs from the address of Mr. Bawlf.

"The marketing of wheat during the past year was controlled to some extent by the Canadian Government through the board of grain supervisors. I wish particularly to remind you that the power given to the board of grain supervisors was a limited power. The board could fix the price of wheat, and, in order to make the price effective, it could commandeer wheat. It could also provide for carrying charges, but it could do very little more. If you compare the powers of the board with those vested in the corresponding body in the United States, you will appreciate what I mean. The United States authorities could negotiate with the representatives of the allied governments; could specify the place at which the allied governments should accept delivery of the wheat; could purchase wheat and sell it to the agents of the allied governments, or to the mills, and could determine all the conditions of such delivery. In other words, when the allied governments decided to create an agency for the purchase of grain in the United States, the United States Government decided to reply by creating an agency supported by the United States Government to negotiate with the agents for the allies. They took this step on the simple ground that if the allied peoples were to buy through a government body, the American producers and dealers should be able to sell through a government body, and in this way, they could properly protect and safeguard American interests. An individual is at a disadvantage in negotiating with a government. Individuals in the United States would have been at a disadvantage in negotiating with a body that represented Great Britain, France and Italy. Consequently, the United States Government interposed a grain corporation and the representatives of the Allied Governments had to deal or negotiate with the representatives of the American Government, and they had to negotiate not merely about the price of the grain, but about everything connected with the marketing of the grain.

"In the United States, therefore, there was an United States Government body which controlled the marketing of all grains and grain products in the United States. That corporation can buy grain if necessary, but one of its main objects is undoubtedly to negotiate with the Wheat Export Company and thereby arrange for the export of grain and grain products. In the United States

therefore, dealers, millers and all connected with the marketing of grain are not compelled to accept the control of any commission or board sitting in London. In Canada, on the other hand, apart from the fixing of the price by the board of grain supervisors and from such arrangements as are made necessary by the fixing of the price, there was, during the past year, no body competent to perform the functions performed by the United States corporation. The result is that apart from the fixing of the price, the control of the marketing of Canadian grain was not in Canadian hands. It was in the hands of the Wheat Export Company, acting under instructions received from either the British royal commission or some other body in England.

"This led to some rather developments during the past year. Through the winter months, it became practically impossible for any shipper other than the Wheat Export Company, to get a car for the hauling of wheat east, all-rail. Just how this situation arose, it is difficult to say, but the result of it was not hard to understand. The result was the Canadian firms, who had been in the business of shipping and forwarding grain for many years, could no longer ship a carload of Canadian wheat to a Canadian mill, east of the Great Lakes, and this domestic business fell into the hands of the company representing the Allied Governments."

The recent order-in-council turning over the handling of the grain to the Board of Grain Supervisors appeared to put the whole matter on a more satisfactory basis, but apparently the Wheat Export Company and the shipping interests are violently opposed to the new control, and some members of the Grain Exchange and the chairman of the Board of Grain Supervisors have been hurriedly summoned to Ottawa for further discussion, and are in session at Ottawa at the present writing. One thing stands out very clearly and that is, that if any industry in the East had been interfered with to the same extent as the grain trade has been interfered with in the West, there would have been something to do long before this. It is beginning to dawn upon many people that Canada is not acting wisely at the present time. The desire to do their part in the war and to be patriotic has been allowed to run, in some directions at least, to extremes. Great Britain herself, and the United States are both carefully safeguard-

ing their industries, in order to be prepared to meet conditions following the war. Canada alone, of all the allied nations, has really done nothing along this line. Of course, a very serious mistake was made in the early days of the war in allowing enormous amounts of Canadian money to go into the United States to establish various war industries. Now, when Canada wants money, she has to borrow it from the United States, and our credit balance is on the wrong side. It is the old story of the borrower being servant to the lender, and to-day Canada is in a very undesirable position with regard to her industries, and in none is she worse placed than in the handling of her grain. It is to be hoped that the conference at Ottawa will not lead to the entire grain trade being handed over once more to the Wheat Export Company. Surely if the United States can control her domestic distribution of grain, Canada should be allowed to do so also.

The West is at last beginning to be stirred up to action in the matter of undesirable immigration from the United States, and protests are coming thick and fast on the subject. Most of this class have been told in the United States that they must either go to war or get out. During the past six months hundreds of these people have been admitted to Canada, and in the case of at least one colony, have been granted military exemption. It seems incredible that this could happen, but it has happened, and the colony is located quite close to Winnipeg. They are not Mennonites, but are French people holding somewhat similar views on the subject of war. A very large percentage of these immigrants are not only undesirable from the standpoint of their peculiar beliefs, but are undesirable from a standpoint of physical condition. Whatever is done now will be largely in the nature of "locking the door after the horse has been stolen," but it will be better to put up the bars than not to put them up at all.

Another matter which will be exceedingly difficult to deal with, but nevertheless, should receive immediate attention is that of the people from alien enemy countries being allowed to buy large pieces of land in the Canadian West. These men are nearly all naturalized, but they are also the men whom the government felt justified in depriving of their vote during last election, yet they are buying enormous areas of land while our own men are fighting in the trenches. The prices paid for some of this land would indicate some other desire beyond that of the mere growing of wheat. At one of the sales of school land in Saskatchewan this year as high as \$80.00 an acre was paid for raw prairie. Surely the legal talent of Canada should be able to devise some means whereby men of alien enemy descent could be prevented from securing such an enormous hold on the lands of Canada.

LAST WEEK'S RECORD OF ACTIVE MONTREAL STOCKS.

Sales.	Stocks.	Open.	High.	Low.	Last sale	Net ch'ge	YEAR.	
							High.	Low.
530	Ames-Holden pfd.	68	68	67	67	-2	72½	47
121	Asbestos	28	28	26	26	+1	28	15
251	do. pfd.	56	58	56	58	+2	58	45
1,705	Brazilian	43¾	43¾	42¾	43¾	-½	46½	32
1,578	Brompton	60	60	59	59½	-½	60	41½
580	Can. Car. pfd.	87	87	83½	84	-4	92	49½
366	Can. Cement	67	67	66¼	66¾	-1¼	69½	57
144	do. pfd.	94	94	94	94	unch.	94	90
916	Can. Forgings	205	213	205	208	+3	213	150
605	Can. Steamship	45	45½	44¾	44¾	-¾	46¾	39
1,584	do. pfd.	78	78	76¾	77	-1¼	78½	76
222	Con. Smelting	25	25	*25	*25	+½	26	25
826	Dom. Bridge	126	128	126	127½	+2½	128	123
410	Dom. Iron, pfd.	97	97	97	97	unch.	97	88
1,440	Dom. Steel Corp.	*62¾	*63¾	*61	61½	-¼	65	53
1,011	Dom. Textile	98½	98½	*95¾	*96	unch.	99	80¾
100	Lake of Woods	151	151	151	151	-½	152½	120½
329	Laurentide	179	179	175	175	-5	183½	152
471	Maple Leaf	118½	120	117¼	120	+½	120	94
1,325	Mont. Power	86¾	86¾	85½	85½	-1½	88½	68½
393	N. S. Steel	68	68	66	66	-2	71½	66
185	Ontario Steel	32¾	32¾	31¾	31¾	-1¼	35	22½
410	Quebec Ry.	19	19	17½	17½	-2¼	22½	15
797	Shawinigan	116	116	115¼	116	+¼	116½	107
3,300	Steel of Canada	72¾	73¾	71	71¾	-1	74	49¾
125	Wayagamack	50	50	50	50	unch.	52¾	50
—BONDS—								
\$10,000	Can. Cottons	80	80	80	80	unch.	80½	80
8,700	Can. War Loan, 1925	96¾	96¾	96¼	96¼	+¾	96¼	93
12,700	do. do. (1931)	95½	95½	95½	95½	-¼	95¾	92
227,600	do. do. (1937)	94	94¾	94	94¼	+¼	94¼	91½
—UNLISTED SHARES—								
985	Laurentide Power	59	59¼	57	57	-2	59¼	50
575	N. A. Pulp	3½	3½	3	3	-¼	4¾	3

*Ex-dividend.