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## The Crop Prospect.

The past week has been rather a cheering one to parties who knew what the real wants of the country in weather were, while it has been one of depression and disappointment to many who did not possess this knowledge. The heavy snow and sleet of Wednesday and Thursday did not look like coming summer, while the temperature during all the balance of the week up to Saturday, was just chilly enough to try the temper of a man who was expecting spring at hand. The snow and sleet storms referred to seem to have reached widely over the country, and they have so thoroughly saturated the soil, that a good start for a wheat crop is now assured. The effect on hay must also have been very beneficial, and it may now be calculated that drought cannot destroy either of the crops mentioned, as a good stand of both is now a certainty. With warm weather now, (and since Saturday the signs of that coming are very plain) the wheat crop of the Northwest has got the best start it ever had since Manitoba became a wheat exporting province. With moderate rains in June, and frost avoided during August, the prospect for both grain and hay crops is most cheering, and it does seem as if the succession of dry years was at last broken. There is no doubt great rejoicing at present among the farmers all over the Northwest.

## Bradstreets' Weekly Report.

Special telegrams to Bradstreet indicate a seasonably active trade movement throughout the country with improvement over the preceding week in Louisiana and elsewhere in the recently flooded district which it is reported will be free from water in time for a crop this season. Elsewhere in the south crop prospects are excellent. The weather has been favorable for trade throughout the west but at St. Paul the general merchandise movement for May

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has not equalled that for a like period last year. Only a moderate activity is reported from Philadelphia the auction offerings at New York having drawn off attention considerably. The industrial situation is less disturbed this week, there having been reported only thirty-seven strikes involving 4,690 employees. The strike of 2,000 tube workers was the largest single disturbance reported. For the past fortnight our record of strikes exceeds all records for any single month, these including 185 strikes involving 57,916 strikers. There is no gain in anthracite coal and pig iron is as heavy as before, and southern irons are pressing north with undiminished vigor. Steel rails have been cut \$2.50 per ton, and billets are reported at bedrock as to prices. Nails and structural iron are relatively most active. The bull stock market continues in full force, prices advancing on enlarged buying by the public and Europe; although money is lighter the western rate trouble are still unsettled. Reports to Bradstreet of net railway earnings in March from 108 companies show an increase

of 9.3 per cent. in excess of the record of the same companies in March, 1889, as compared with an increase of only 7 per cent. in February's net earnings this year as compared with last. For the first quarter of 1890 the net earnings of 128 railways companies show a gain of 11.7 per cent. over the corresponding period of last year. The trade sales of flannels at New York (28,000 cases, valued at \$5,500,000) have monopolized the attention of the goods trade to the curtailment of regular business in this line. The results of the sales are as a whole unsatisfactory, the mild winter and heavy stock in dealers' hands depressing prices 5 to 30 per cent. below last year and on colored flannels generally below actual cost of production. Wool is very firm and in fairly active demand on depleted stock.

The business failures reported to Bradstreet number 151 in the United States this week against 152 last week and 190 this week last year. Canada had 16 this week against 26 last week. The total number of failures in the United States from Jan. 1st to date is 4,421 against 4,769 in a like period of 1889.