

## Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 20.

Weather is now ideal over the west, and threshing is progressing rapidly. In southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where much of the threshing is already completed, fall ploughing is going forward with great vigor. Everywhere comes the story of high grade wheat, and better out-turns than was expected. Calgary to-day reports that out of 28 cars inspected 24 graded Number one Northern and better, and nine of them graded Number one hard Alberta is not used to Number one hard, out of the famous crop of 1915 southern Alberta had only three cars of that grade. Here at Winnipeg the weight of the wheat is staggering even to old-timers who remember the crop of 1887. Of 41 cars inspected at Winnipeg off C. N. R. lines six weighed 65 pounds to the measured bushel; 14 weighed 64 and 12 weighed 63 pounds to the measured bushel. Yields of 40 and 50 bushels are an every-day occurrence.

To-day, out of 601 cars inspected at Winnipeg 464 graded Number one Northern, and 533 were of contract grade.

The only thing that is bothering the trade is that at present there are no buyers.

The Ontario mills have apparently filled up, and as yet the Wheat Export Company are not in the market. With the steady flow of wheat from the separator to the elevators the amount of money going out from line elevator companies' office is enormous, and there will have to be relief soon, or buying in the country will cease, which will not be very pleasant for anyone. It is understood that it is a question of arranging finances, and it is known that the bankers are very busy holding meetings in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, and it is hoped that matters will be settled by the end of the present week. There is a fair business on coarse grains, but nothing exciting, and the amount of oats coming forward is very small. It is not likely that farmers will be in a hurry to sell any oats until they see how the crop for a whole will turn out, as if they are to prepare the necessary increase in land for next year very large quantities of oats will be needed, and the crop in any case is a small one.

Mills have fixed the price of flour at \$11.00 for cash in carlots mill door, and have published a scale of advances for deliveries in smaller lots both in and out of the city. They claim that the price has been made to conform as nearly as possible with the American regulation of 25c. per barrel, profit on flour and 60 cents per ton on mill feed. There are to be no discounts to any section of the trade. Prices were arrived at after continued conference of millers for a couple of days. It is understood that the demand for mill feed is very strong, and that immense quantities of the output of western mills are going to the New England States.

There has, as yet, been no change in the retail price of flour and no change in bread.

The Board of Grain Supervisors have given for publication the full text of their report to the Department of Trade and Commerce on the matter of fixing the price of wheat. This report contains strong recommendations on the subject of control of flour prices, and also recommends that the new Federal grades for wheat in the United States be adopted in Canada, or rather that our grades be made to harmonize with theirs.

The decision to consider the matter of retaining screenings in Canada for feed has been hailed with delight by many of the stock feeders in the west. There is no denying that coarse grains are short, and any addition to the supply of stock feed will be most welcome. The whole scheme of shipping them out of the country has been an asinine one from the first, and should never have been permitted.

### LIVESTOCK.

Livestock markets are very active, and continue strong in the face of steadily increasing receipts. Best steers sold to-day at \$11.00 Winnipeg, and selected hogs at \$17.00. So far there has been no appreciable increase in the liquidation of brood sows, which can be traced to the declaration that Britain would buy no more Canadian bacon. It is generally conceded that the supply of hogs in the west is not large, and as long as the price runs around \$15.00 the farmers will be satisfied.

## The Peace Proposals

Germany and Austria reply to the Pope

London, Sept. 21.

In reply to peace proposals of Pope Benedict the German and Austro-Hungarian Governments express the hope that the Pontiff's efforts may bring about a cessation of hostilities. Emperor William "cherishes a lively desire" that the Vatican appeal may meet with success.

Germany's reply is written by a member of the Emperor's entourage, while that of Austro-Hungary is a personal missive from Emperor Charles. Both notes to the Pope were made public almost simultaneously and apparently both follow the same general trend.

Emperor Charles declares the Pope's proposals will lead to peace if the belligerent nations would enter into negotiations in the sense of the Pontiff's suggestions, in which he sees a suitable basis for initiating exchanges toward a just and lasting peace. He expresses the hope that the opposing belligerents may be animated by the same ideas.

The future arrangement of the world, the Emperor says, must be based on the elimination of armed force, the freedom of the seas, and on the rule of international justice and legality.

Emperor William has been following the efforts of Pope Benedict toward peace with "high respect and sincere gratitude." The German reply designates the Pope's note as an "emphatic peace appeal."

### THE AUSTRIAN REPLY.

The text of the Austrian reply follows:  
"Holy Father:—With due veneration and deep emotion we take cognizance of the new representations your Holiness, in fulfillment of the holy office entrusted to you by God, make to us and the heads of the other belligerent States with the noble inten-

tion of leading the heavily-trying nations to a unity that will restore peace to them.

"With a thankful heart we received this fresh gift of fatherly care which you, Holy Father, always bestow on all peoples without distinction, and from the depth of our heart we greet the moving exhortation which your Holiness has addressed to the Government of the belligerent peoples. During this cruel war we have always looked up to your Holiness as to the highest personage, who in virtue of his mission which reaches beyond earthly things, and thanks to the high conception of his duties laid upon him, stands high above the belligerent peoples and who is inaccessible to all influence, was able to find a way which may lead to the realization of our own desire for peace, lasting and honorable for all parties.

"Since ascending the throne of our ancestors, and fully conscious of the responsibility which we bear before God and Man for the fate of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, we have never lost sight of the high aim of restoring to our peoples as speedily as possibly the blessings of peace. Soon after our accession to the throne, it was vouchsafed to us, in common with our allies, to undertake a step which had been considered and prepared by our exalted predecessor, Francis Josef, to have the way for a lasting and honorable peace.

### STRIVING AFTER PEACE.

"We gave expression to this desire in a Speech from the Throne, delivered at the opening of the Austrian Reichsrath, thereby showing that we are striving after a peace that shall free the future life of the nation from rancor and a thirst for revenge, and that shall secure them for generations to come from the employment of armed forces. Our Joint Govern-

ment has, in the meantime, not failed in repeated and emphatic declarations, which could be heard by all the world, to give expression to our own will and that of the Austro-Hungarian peoples to prepare an end to bloodshed by a peace such as your Holiness has in mind.

"Happy in the thought that our desires from the first were directed towards the same object which your Holiness to-day characterizes as one we should strive for, we have taken into close consideration the concrete and practical suggestions of your Holiness, and have come to the following conclusions:

"With deep-rooted conviction we agree to the leading idea of your Holiness, that the future arrangement of the world must be based on the elimination of armed forces and on the moral force of right and on the rule of international justice and liberty.

"We, too, are imbued with the hope that a strengthening of the sense of right would morally regenerate humanity. We support, therefore, your Holiness' view that the negotiations between the belligerents should and could lead to an understanding, by which, with the creation of appropriate guarantees, armaments on land and sea might be simultaneously and gradually reduced to a fixed limit, and whereby the high seas, which rightfully belong to all the nations of the earth, may be freed from domination or paramountcy, and be opened equally for the use of all.

"Fully conscious of the importance of the promotion of peace on the method proposed by your Holiness, namely, to submit international disputes to compulsory arbitration, we are also prepared to enter into negotiations regarding this proposal.

"If as we most heartily desire, agreements should be arrived at between the belligerents which would realize this sublime idea and thereby give security to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy for its unhampered future development, it can then not be difficult to find a satisfactory solution of the other questions which still remain to be settled between the belligerents in a spirit of justice and of a reasonable consideration of the conditions for existence of both parties.

"If the nations of the earth were to enter, with a desire for peace, into negotiations with one another in the sense of your Holiness' proposal, then peace could blossom forth from them. The nations could attain complete freedom of movement on the high seas, heavy material burdens could be taken from them and new sources of prosperity opened to them.

"Guided by a spirit of moderation and conciliation, we see in the proposals of your Holiness a suitable basis for initiating negotiations with a view to preparing a peace, just to all and lasting, and we earnestly hope our present enemies may be animated by the same ideas. In this spirit we beg that the Almighty may bless the work of peace begun by your Holiness."

The text of the German reply reads:

"Herr Cardinal: Your Eminence has been good enough, together with your letter of August 2, to transmit to the Kaiser and King, my most gracious master, the note of his Holiness the Pope, in which his Holiness, filled with grief at the devastations of the world war, makes an emphatic peace appeal to the heads of the belligerent peoples. The Kaiser King has deigned to acquaint me with your Eminence's letter and to entrust the reply to me.

"His Majesty has been following for a considerable time with high respect and sincere gratitude his Holiness' efforts in a spirit of true impartiality to alleviate as far as possible the sufferings of the war and to hasten the end of hostilities. The Kaiser sees in the latest step of his Holiness fresh proof of his noble and humane feelings, and cherishes a lively desire that for the benefit of the entire world the Papal appeal may meet with success."

### LIMITING FOOD PROFITS IN ENGLAND.

I now am able to limit the profits derived by those engaged in the food industries of the United Kingdom. We examine the books, and apply a system of cost and expense. I expect to hear that Mr. Hoover and Mr. Hanna have taken similar steps, so that we will be able to assure the people that the existing high prices of imported food do not represent profiteering.

In this connection I am anxiously watching the price and the available supply across the water of foodstuffs for cattle, upon which depends largely the price of meat and bacon. Unless the existing high levels are reduced, the poorer classes in the United Kingdom, France and Italy are faced with many privations.—Lord Rhondda, British Food Controller.