



The Crop in the Prairie Provinces in 1906, amounted to about 85,000,000 Bushels.

place in the West has undoubtedly been a factor in encouraging farmers to grow oats. In addition it has been found that they can be shipped with advantage to the East, and until November 30th, of the season 1906 crop there had gone forward 4,659,068 bushels from Port Arthur and Fort William.

The harvest excursions from the East were continued and during the month of August some 20,000 men migrated Westward to help garner the crops. This practice of harvest excursions is not peculiarly Canadian. In Germany for years seventy-five thousand men and women, farm labourers of the districts east of the Oder, have migrated each summer to the country along the Elbe for the purpose of harvesting the beet sugar crop. This emigration was made possible, as in Canada, by the low rates offered by the railways.

The marketing of the crop has been somewhat delayed as usual by the lack of cars or inability on the part of the transportation companies to handle the crops as expeditiously as shippers would like. The demands made upon the railway companies for cars to the lake ports

during the Fall of the year are abnormal, and it is not to be expected that anything like the quantity of grain offered for shipment can go forward in the short season between the first marketing and the close of navigation. The total shipments at Port Arthur and Fort William for the season of 1906 up to November 30th, were 39,893,898 bushels.

The amount of wealth extracted from the soil by the farmers of the three Prairie Provinces cannot be determined with any degree of certainty. But everyone who has anything to do with journalism, politics or the grain trade has made an estimate of the grand total. From wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax, potatoes, sugar beets, forage crops, cultivated hay, prairie hay, live stock, dairy produce and all sources of farm revenue, it is not improbable that a total value of something like \$100,000,000 will have been created in 1906. This immense amount of wealth, unlike minerals or lumber, has been taken from the soil without appreciably diminishing the storehouse. The farmer and his farm are truly the best asset of the nation.



On December 3rd, at 9.30 p.m., a fire occurred in the buildings at the corner of Notre Dame and McGill Streets, Montreal. It was an exceptionally cold night, the mercury registering 5° below zero.

Photo by R. F. Smith, Montreal.