

Conditions in the West

**Considerable Damage Done to Seed Bed by Heavy Winds---
Threshing Now Proceeding---Flour Trade Slow---
Live Stock and Wool in Good Demand**

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Winnipeg, May 12.

The weather has been very unsatisfactory for the entire week, and considerable damage has been done by the heavy winds, causing the soil to drift and blowing out newly planted seed. How extensive this damage is it will not be possible to ascertain for another week at least. The heavy winds also delayed further seeding, but on the whole fair progress has been made, though I still think that the reduction in wheat areas will be very considerable, and there is no doubt that the amount of wheat seeded on stubble is much larger than could be desired.

In Alberta and the Western part of Saskatchewan, a fair amount of progress has been made in preparing land for coarse grains, and a greater percentage of oats and barley will be seeded by the 20th of the month.

At the time of writing a private report has been received as to conditions in the Dakotas and Minnesota. Reports from 500 points for these States indicate that the reduction in wheat acreage for these States will be 25 per cent. This is very much heavier than what was anticipated, and when the announcement is made public it is likely that it will have a considerable bullish effect upon the market.

Markets have been holding very steady on the whole all week, and Winnipeg May and July have at times been on a parity, and all week have been very close together.

Lake Shipping and Freights.

There was up to Friday a very great demand for cash wheat to fill boats, but by Friday the tonnage for the first half of May seems to have been pretty well covered. Well posted men in the pit anticipate a very heavy trade for the latter half of May, and while there are still some very ardent bears they are by no means so much in evidence as they were ten days ago.

Boats are being very firmly held at 4½ cents for Buffalo, but the demand has not been as keen for the last two or three days. This is attributed to the breaking up of the Western Elevating Association at Buffalo, and the consequent disorganizing of the elevator system there, and the failure to give despatch on boats. This association performed somewhat the same services in unloading boats that the Lake Shippers' Clearance Association at the head of the Canadian Lakes perform in the loading of boats; indeed the Buffalo organization was to some extent modelled on the Canadian one, and really did remarkably efficient work last fall. Dissension crept in, and there was a claim of favoritism to certain elevators and a number of the terminals at Buffalo did not remain in the Association. During the past week a meeting was called to endeavor to get the strays back into the fold, but unfortunately it had exactly the opposite result, and at midnight on Wednesday the association ceased to operate.

Last Year's Wheat Being Threshed.

Everything has been proceeding very quietly at the head of the Canadian Lakes during the past week, and the forward movement from the country has been heavy. The number of cars passing through Winnipeg for inspection being about 1,000 per day. One of the curious features is that threshing is going on at the present time in the West. It was expected that practically no threshing would be done until after seeding, but in a number of districts farmers appear to be neglecting seeding and doing their threshing, and this is somewhat hard to understand or explain. So far little of this late threshed wheat has come forward, but individual reports reaching the Grain Exchange indicate that it has passed through the winter in very good condition.

Flour Trade.

Trade in flour is very dull, both domestic and export, and the best proof of this is the fact that the Ogilvie Flour Mills at Winnipeg have now been closed for several weeks. The slowness of domestic trade is attributed by some of the millers to poor car supply; others simply state that it is poor, and

give no reason. All of them agree, however, that export trade is very dull.

Coarse Grains.

Trade in oats has continued throughout the week, and there has been a fair demand for oats in all positions, while the forward movement of oats has been comparatively light. Flax has continued to decline and is now practically fifty cents per bushel below the high point of the season. This has been rather hard to explain, but is credited by some to the prospect of there being a very largely increased acreage seeded this year in the West.

Live Stock.

The prices for live stock, particularly for good butchers' steers are holding very strong, with a comparatively light offering. The demand for stockers and feeders is less than it was a week ago, and the Union Stockyards here report that the larger percentage of the stockers passing through in the last month have gone West rather than South, although one or two heavy shipments to the South have been made. The Southern demand, however, has very materially fallen off. As high as \$7.50 per hundredweight has been paid for extra choice feeders, weighing from 1,000 to 1,100 lbs.

Wool.

The West continues to be considerably exercised over the wool situation, but on the whole the Western growers are remaining very faithful to the Government co-operative sales, and it is expected that three million dollars at least will be handled through these sales this year.

UNITED STATES WINTER WHEAT CROP.

The winter wheat crop of the United States this year promises to yield 499,280,000 bushels, the Department of Agriculture announced on May 8, basing its forecast on the condition of the crop May 1. The output will probably be above or below those figures according to the change in conditions from now until time of harvest. The present forecast compares with 655,045,000 bushels harvested last year, the greatest winter wheat crop ever gathered in this country, and with a forecast of 540,000,000 bushels made last December before the crop entered the winter from which it emerged in rather poor condition, showing a decline of 9.4 points compared with the ten-year average decline of 3.5 points. On the crop's condition April 1 a forecast of 495,000,000 bushels was made by the Bureau of Crop Estimates, assuming average abandonment of acreage and average influences on the crop to harvest time.

The area of winter wheat to be harvested is estimated at about 33,020,000 acres as a result of the May 1 canvass. The area planted last fall was 37,256,000 acres, a decrease of 4,756,000 acres from the record area of the 1915 crop, and compares with a yearly average of 32,088,000 acres in the preceding five years.

The condition of winter wheat on May 1 was 82.4 per cent of a normal, compared with 78.3 on April 1 last, 92.9 on May 1 last year, and 87.5 the ten-year May 1 average. That condition is indicative of a yield of 15.1 bushels an acre, compared with 16.2 bushels harvested last year, and 19.0 bushels in 1914.

The large reduction in acreage sown last fall was attributed partly to unfavorable weather for seeding, tangled condition of much corn land which otherwise would have been sown to wheat, some fear of the Hessian fly, and to large supplies of wheat on hand.

A wet, cold fall, causing poor seed beds and poor start for wintering, resulted in a low condition this spring. Much of the crop was sown late, and the Hessian fly was reported present and active in many sections of the Southern part of the winter wheat belt. Climatic conditions were harder on late sown, the winter covering was lighter than usual, and the injury from freezing and thawing greater than in previous years.

Textile Mills

*throughout Canada are
working overtime on mili-
tary and regular business*

Four mills are now under construction. Several plants have resumed operations during the past few months. A number of concerns have recently doubled the capacity of their plants. Practically all the mills are installing new equipment as quickly as it can be secured.

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FACTORIES IN

**MONTREAL, TORONTO,
OTTAWA, WINNIPEG**

SOME FRENCH GOING.

(London Times Correspondence).

Paris, April 13.

The French army on February 1 possessed twenty-three times as many heavy guns as at the beginning of the war.

It possessed a daily output of thirty times as many shells for the "soixante quinze" guns.

It possessed an output of forty-four times as many shells for larger guns.

The powder factories had twenty-three times the capacity they had at the start.

The French stock of munitions not only keeps up comfortably with the terrific expenditure round Verdun and elsewhere, but increases daily.

LINE TO PETROGRAD FOR BOSTON.

The establishment of the first transatlantic passenger and freight steamship service between Boston and Petrograd has been announced. It will be known as the America-Finland Steamship Line, and will operate three vessels each of 10,000 tons gross and capable of carrying 200 cabin and 1,500 steerage passengers. The date for the first sailing has not been set. It is understood that Russian business interests hold a large part of the stock.