

Conditions in the West

Crops are in Good Shape, with Few Reports of Damage Flour Business Shows Big Improvement

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Winnipeg, July 28th—Conditions in the West are very favorable. The scare of black rust to the South naturally created a very considerable uneasiness, but the Manitoba Free Press secured during the week reports from 150 points and out of this 134 reported absolutely no black rust, very slight traces reported at 12 points and 4 points reported conditions are serious. The weather on the whole has been favorable. There were one or two days of dull moist sunshine. The report also showed that while there had been a number of hail storms, only 49 points showed slight damage and three serious damage. 132 points reported the general conditions of the crop good to excellent and only four stated that conditions were none too good. A number of points reported conditions as good and better than at the same date last year.

The Outlook Never Better.

The writer has travelled over a considerable amount of territory and has never seen the Canadian West looking better at this season of the year. Of course, it is still early enough for serious damage to overtake the crop, but with anything like favorable weather conditions from now on, the West is assured of a very fine crop, and the acreage, while not so large as last year, is nevertheless very heavy, if estimated against the normal increase from year to year under ante-bellum conditions.

The only serious problem with regard to the crop in the Canadian West today is the problem of labor to take it off, and that is certainly very serious. Practically every report received stated that help was short and very many added that there was little prospect of improvement. Private reports state that the railway companies are having very little response to their advertisements for farm labor in the United States. The question of releasing soldiers for harvest has not yet been decided. It is claimed that the men who go out and are away from drill for a month at a time, require fully two months to bring them up to the same state of efficiency as they possessed before going out, and in view of the possible demand for additional men on the fighting line, it may not be considered advisable to permit very large numbers of them to go. In spite of much urging the Provincial Government of Manitoba has as yet made no recognized effort to secure the assistance of the large numbers of foreign women who have been accustomed to field labor in their own countries. Some tentative effort in this direction is now under way, but it should have been made months ago, in order to be really effective.

The Flour Situation.

The black rust scare to the South of us and the sympathy which our market has shown with the bull market of Minneapolis has very speedily revolutionized the flour trade. Where all was dull and lifeless ten days ago, now all is extreme activity. Stocks had been allowed to run very low in view of the hope for a dropping in prices which was expected with the rush of the American winter wheat on the market. Instead of a lower price there has been a rapid advance and October and December wheat gained 4 1/4 to 4 1/2 cents respectively on the Winnipeg market last week. Millers state that the demands for flour are extremely active and they are now confronted with the difficulty of getting their flour shipped. The railways refused to attend to any but limited quantities for movement lake and rail, and it looks as if there might be a complete embargo on flour going by the lakes and that millers will have to pay the all-rail freight. The strenuous effort to move the balance of the crop of 1915 before the crop of 1916 comes on the market is responsible for a good deal of the freight congestion. There is much money in the country and the farmers are buying freely, especially new machinery and automobiles, and this makes westbound freight heavy.

The Western Fairs.

One of the best indications of the prosperity in the Canadian West is the demand for expensive pure bred stock. One Eastern breeder to wit, L. O.

Clifford of Oshawa, Ont. sold \$12,000 worth in five days during the Brandon Fair, which is the Provincial Fair of Manitoba. All the breeders made sales at very high figures; a five month's old calf selling for \$1,000 was by no means unique.

Motors vs Buggies.

As an evidence of how rapidly the farmers are utilizing motor cars for going to and from town, it may be stated that on a single day, Farmer's Day,

at the Brandon Fair there were 355 automobiles packed inside the Fair Grounds, to say nothing of the ones that were left outside. Perhaps this will be more fully appreciated if it is stated that Brandon is in the centre of the horse breeding industry of the Province of Manitoba, and was especially noted for the number and high quality of its driving horses; indeed, it is noted for them today. Ten years ago the driving horse parade was inaugurated and 300 fine turnouts competed. At the Fair this year there was one horse and buggy as a means of transport and over eighty automobiles. The Fair at Regina, Saskatchewan, offers a prize for the small towns sending the largest number of automobiles to its Fair, which is the Provincial Fair of Saskatchewan. They are providing park room inside the grounds for at least 500 cars and they probably will run over that. These are, of course, figures that give some idea of the prosperity of the farmers of the Canadian West.

Montreal Women's War Register

A Commendable Effort to Secure Registration of Canada's Available Labor Supply

A Women's War Register has been opened in Montreal in temporary quarters at the Royal Victoria College, and is to be removed in September to an office, generously offered free of charge by the Guarantee Company of North America, on Beaver Hall Hill.

The movement for the Register originated in the Women's Canadian Club, and it has the active cooperation of the Citizens' Recruiting Association of representatives of important interests and industries, and of women representing all sections of Montreal society. In spite of the holiday season, when 75 per cent of the congregation of city churches are out of town, a hundred women registered within a week, of whom 25 per cent are wives or mothers of soldiers, and some 16 per cent who have formerly been factory workers, all willing again to become wage earners should their services be needed. The advertisement and registration forms used are very similar to those issued by the Board of Trade, England, in March, 1915, adapted to suit local requirements.

The object of the Register is to form a reserve of women's labor which can be called upon in case of need. It is understood that the services of women whose names are on the Register will not be sought until three sources at least of supply are exhausted, namely, returned soldiers, men physically unfit for military service, women employed but temporarily out of employment, if any. It is not intended to thrust new labor upon the market if the present supply is sufficient, and the Committee of the Register therefore prefers to be applied to by employers only after the latter are satisfied that their needs cannot be met by the ordinary methods of advertisement; but, women are urged to register

at once, to demonstrate that a reserve of labor exists.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association at a recent conference on Recruiting and Production, pointed out that Canada is called upon to contribute 500,000 fighting men, at the same time she has to maintain an industrial army sufficient to enable her to meet the financial obligations which she has assumed, and she requires an agricultural force sufficient to maintain her population and to do her duty to the Empire in the matter of food supplies. The problem of raising the remaining 165,000 with the least expense to the country and the minimum disturbance to all forms of production, was discussed. The duty of every Canadian to do something to help in the war was emphasized. The more it is prolonged the more urgent is the need for every one to help. Some will have to fight, those who are not fighting should be producing, and those who are doing neither should be paying.

The appeal for women so far does not come from Government nor from any authoritative body of men. There is nothing in Canada equivalent to the British National Registration nor to the Labor Exchange Registers of the Board of Trade, but, as elsewhere in earlier days, women have to organize themselves and to discover their willingness to serve and to strive to prove it. Canadian women have responded nobly to the call for voluntary workers — for the Red Cross Society, the Patriotic Fund and other war relief works; there can be no doubt that when the time comes for them to enter wage earning occupations more fully to help in time of war emergency, they will not be found wanting. Meanwhile they have the opportunity of preparing, so that when the call comes their ability and experience may be sufficient to the need.

The New Canadian War Loan

Canadian Money Should be Conserved for Participation Therein

The Minister of Finance has issued an urgent request to the Canadian public to reserve their funds for the forthcoming domestic war loan. The attention of the Minister has been directed to the fact that circulars are being sent out to the Canadian public recommending the purchase of foreign Government securities issued in the United States, the proceeds of which are to be used in payment for munitions and supplies purchased in the United States. He points out that on account of our rapidly increasing war expenses and the heavier demands which the future will make in this respect, it is of supreme national importance that the financial resources of Canada should be conserved for our own purposes and that as much as possible of the national debt should be held in Canada. The Minister states that there is abundance of capital in the United States to absorb all issues made in that country, and the allied interests will not, therefore, suffer through Canadians refraining from participation and husbanding their resources to meet their own national needs.

Under the War Measures Act the Government has power to prohibit the offering of foreign securities in Canada, as has been done in Great Britain, but has

preferred to rely upon the patriotism of the Canadian investing public rather than to adopt repressive measures. Apart from the necessity of preserving the financial resources of Canada, for our own requirements to carry on the war, it is to be pointed out that in the existing exchange situation it is against the general business interests of Canada that Canadian funds should be expended in the purchase of foreign securities. The Minister believes it to be his duty to call the attention of the public to this matter, which he is convinced has not received full consideration from the national standpoint on the part of those promoting the sale in Canada of the securities referred to.

A FINE CREED.

I believe in work. I never forget for one moment that time is precious. I never forget that the sun does not stand still, and if a man is not careful the sun will leave him with his work unfinished. It is easy enough to accomplish something if you set out for it in earnest.—F. Hopkinson Smith.