

## The Crop Situation.

(Continued from page 979.)

Sidney, June 18.—Unless this district has rain, and that in abundance very soon, oats, barley and timothy will not pay for cutting, and wheat will not be much better. The oldest inhabitant says it is the driest season he ever saw.

Treherne, June 20.—Crops are looking well in this district, but a good soaking rain is needed to make a good sure crop. The acreage is greater than any previous year, and though the prospect for price is not too good, the farmers are in good spirits, and business men say that though they are not selling as many goods on credit their cash sales are as good as other years.

Rosenfeld, June 18.—The continued dry, sultry weather is beginning to have a serious effect on the prospect of the farmers, especially late sowing, the seed never starting to grow.

Springfield, June 20.—Springfield farmers have been rather gloomy lately at the absence of the necessary rain for their crops, but the last two evenings' showers were very welcome.

Thornhill, June 20.—There was a fine rain here last night. Early crops are looking well, but late sown grain is not good.

Morden, June 20.—A good rain fell for an hour yesterday afternoon and for two hours last night.

Hartney, June 20.—This vicinity is being favored with refreshing showers.

Portage la Prairie, June 20.—There was a heavy rain last night which was much needed.

Rain was quite general over the province on Tuesday night, June 19. Rain fell at Portage la Prairie and all along the Manitoba & Northwestern to Langenburg, and also the following points in southern and western Manitoba and the Red river valley: Carman, Treherne, Holland, Glenboro, Souris, Hartney, Napinka, Melita, Carberry, Brandon, Oak Lake, Virden, Morris, Morden, Manitou, Emerson, Boissevain, Deloraine and Winnipeg. This shows that it covered almost the entire province.

Joslin, Virden district, June 18.—We had a very fine rain on Sunday. Crops around this district have stood the dry weather remarkably, and there are prospects of a good crop, although the straw promises to be short.

Alexander, June 18.—The weather is very dry, and the crops are suffering for rain.

Griswold, June 18.—The several rains of the past week have been of great benefit to this locality. Vegetation has assumed a more vigorous appearance.

Elkhorn, June 18.—We had three or four small rains last week, but on Sunday evening it came in torrents for several hours; our farmers and merchants are cheering up immensely.

Pipestone, June 18.—We have had some very fine rains of late that make the crops look fine.

Oak Lake, June 18.—Last Saturday we had a nice shower, also on Wednesday night, which nicely laid the dust. To insure a good crop we require a great deal of rain, which we hope to get.

Pandennis, June 16.—Crops have improved greatly since the rain of Tuesday and Wednesday last.

Sintaluta, June 16.—The much needed rain has come at last, and with the fine weather since, crops are coming in in good shape.

Whitewood, June 21.—The welcome rain which we have so frequently enjoyed of late has taken away all down-heartedness. Business is on the improve, and all are "shouting for joy."

Moose Mountain, June 18.—The rain of last week was very welcome, as it not only gave the prairie grass and sloughs a chance to grow, but it put out the big fire, which had been burning in the bush east of here for the last fortnight. They say it burned all before it for six miles square.

Moose Jaw, June 18.—A heavy rain fell here this afternoon, accompanied by high winds and considerable thunder and lightning. Reports

from all over the district state the downpour was general and the crop prospect at present excellent. The present season so far has been exceptionally good for stock.

Virden, June 20.—During the past week heavy showers of rain have fallen each day in this district, consequently all vegetation is looking in splendid condition.

Alameda, June 18.—The rain on Saturday of last week has been followed by frequent showers this week; 2.29 inches of rain have fallen. The crops are looking very well and growing fast, the first sown wheat is 13 inches in height. The breaking, which had been stopped by the drought, has been resumed, and everything now looks as if this season's work will be profitable.

Brandon, June 21. Several farmers in the city from the municipality of Daly report fine showers there during the past ten days and that the crops are looking fine.

Woodworth Municipality.—A good crop is now almost assured since the beautiful rainfalls of June 12 and 13. In many parts the fields were almost red with drought; now they look fresh and healthy and are in a prolific condition.

### LATEST REPORTS.

There were showers nearly all over Manitoba on Tuesday, June 19, and heavier showers again on Wednesday, June 20. Telegrams received on Thursday, June 21, report as follows:—

Portage la Prairie—Rain from one to two hours all along the Manitoba & Northwestern railway from here to Binscarth and Russell. There was no rain west of Russell, very heavy at Birtle and light at Neepawa, but heavy in the surrounding country.

Minnedosa—Three or four showers since noon yesterday.

Rapid City—No rain here since Tuesday. Birtle—Heavy rain of three or four hours here.

Russell—Heavy rain yesterday.

Carberry—No rain since Tuesday.

Brandon—Nice shower of rain last night.

Oak Lake—About two hours rain on Wednesday night.

Virden—Three hours rain here Wednesday night.

Moosomin—No rain here the shower passed over.

Fleming and Wapella—Good showers here.

Qu'Appelle—Very light shower here.

Carman—Yesterday afternoon there were two hours of heavy rain.

Treherne—Rain fell here last night very heavily for about half an hour.

Glenboro—At this point rain fell during nearly the whole of yesterday afternoon.

Clearwater—There was a heavy rain here last night. The ground was thoroughly saturated.

It was the first heavy rain in six weeks and did much good.

Boissevain—There was a good rain at this point last night.

Deloraine—There were good showers here last evening.

Morris—There was a heavy rain shower here last night.

Morden—At this point last night rain fell for an hour and a half.

Manitou—There was a very heavy rain here last night, so heavy in fact that the water is yet standing in gutters in the fields.

Souris—There was a good shower here last night.

Hartney—Last night there were two hours of heavy rain.

Napinka—It rained here heavily for three hours or more during last night.

Melita—There were three or four hours of rain here last night.

Oxbow—In this district there were two hours good rain last night.

Morris—Rained thirty minutes heavy, accompanied by some hail. Not enough to do damage.

Miami—Light shower.

Baldur—Three hours steady rain.

Brandon—Showers during the night.

Roland—Light showers during the night.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

The Northwest Territories.

The Editor, The Commercial,

Winnipeg.

DEAR SIR,—For some time past I have been reading articles on the subject of the Northwest Territories as a farming country.

I have been in this country for about six years, and have travelled almost through these territories; and, as I have had 35 year's experience in farming in this and the old country, I might be permitted to offer a few remarks regarding the suitability of these territories to a farmer who immigrates from the old country.

In my opinion there is no better country in the world for ranching and mixed farming. The southern parts of the territories are better adapted to ranching than mixed farming, but when we get our irrigation system well established we can farm successfully in the southern districts as well as north of Calgary. Fifty miles north of Calgary the mixed farming country is to be found, and from that north of Edmonton and in the Prince Albert district the whole country is desirable as a mixed farming country. Some parties think that crops can be grown, but that pests out them down. This is not the case, except when the farmer is to blame. During my travels for the past four years in the territories I have not found ten farms properly cultivated, and those properly cultivated have never failed to yield a good crop. If the government were to look to quality instead of quantity, when trying to induce settlers to come to this country, we would have no cause of complaint.

We have not, so far, got the right class of settlers—the government should endeavor to get more of the better class of settlers from England, Ireland and Scotland. There is nothing to be gained by flooding the country with pauper settlers, who do not know how to farm if they had the means to do so.

We want settlers who can farm, and who have at least from \$2,000 to \$5,000 in cash. Then when we have more of this class we will have a prosperous country. If farmers in the old country were to cultivate their farms there as I have seen farmers in this country cultivate their lands they would not get five bushels of wheat per acre. The farmers in this country go in too much for sowing large fields of wheat, etc.—more than they can properly cultivate or attend to.

In the Prince Albert district I have seen land under wheat for three years, and that land was not ploughed during that period, simply sown broadcast on the stubble, and the seed harrowed in and not even rolled. Yet these farmers blamed everything but themselves for not having a good yield. This is no exception to the general farming of the Northwest.

I have seen farmers come to market to buy pork and eggs and butter and even potatoes. This may sound rather strange, but it is a fact. If the farmers would only get out of the old groove, and change to mixed farming, and not "live by bread alone," we would have prosperous times in this country, and not blame the Canadian Pacific railway freight rates for our non-success. A farmer should never spend money for provisions, and if he has to buy anything in that line he should be able to sell pork, eggs and butter, etc., with the price of which he could purchase articles of food and raiment.

Some people say how can a farmer succeed when big corporations or companies like the Canadian Agricultural and the Northwest Trading company have not been a success? When the country learns the cause of their failure they will easily answer such questions. The Canadian Agricultural Company started with a capital of about 1½ million dollars and borrowed about ½ a million more, and the greater part of their capital was spent in fencing large farms and in the erection of farm buildings—the latter suited to very warm climates—at a cost of about \$23,000 for each