

From Western Fields.

CANADA'S BEST ADVERTISEMENT.

Milling Company Manager Gives Representative of THE CHRONICLE his Views on Western Outlook—Railroads' Good Work in Moving Grain Quickly.

"The quantity and quality of the western wheat crop this year will give Canada the best advertising it has ever had," remarked Mr. F. W. Thompson, vice-president and general manager of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Co., to a representative of THE CHRONICLE, after his tour of the grain districts. "These is good reason to believe that our company's earlier estimate of 115,000,000 bushels will be considerably exceeded. Threshing returns have been exceedingly satisfactory, a regards both bulk and grade. Nor is this harvest establishing records for wheat alone—yields of oats, barley and flax also exceed largely those of previous years."

Mr. Thompson recognizes the seriousness of the labour problem to the western farmer, and points out that, but for the exceedingly fine weather of the past six weeks, millions of bushels of grain would have been destroyed. Even yet, much threshing remains to be done, considerable grain being still in stock in Saskatchewan. In Manitoba, however, fall ploughing is already well advanced.

No Car Shortage or Congestion.

It is estimated that well over 30,000,000 bushels of wheat have already been delivered to the elevators. Mr. Thompson has nothing but praise for the celerity with which the railways are handling the crop this year. The double-tracking of the C.P.R.'s line from Winnipeg to Fort William has, of course, made the task vastly more manageable than it would otherwise be. Throughout his trip of over one thousand miles through the grain districts, Mr. Thompson heard no word anywhere of car shortage. The Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern are also doing their share with all possible energy.

The development alike of new towns and of old (old as the West counts age) impressed Mr. Thompson more forcibly this year than ever before. Winnipeg, Fort William and Port Arthur are progressing by leaps and bounds. The advantages of the Twin Cities as manufacturing and distributing points are secured by their position at the head of navigation.

"We have in view large extensions of the company's business in the West," said Mr. Thompson in reply to a query as to the main purpose of his tour. "We purpose erecting a mill in the Middle West—the exact location of which will be decided upon shortly. Important enlargements are already under way at Fort William and Winnipeg. We expect the new half-million bushel addition to our Fort William elevator will be completed by November 1. The 300,000 bushel addition to the Winnipeg elevator is now practically ready.

"It is scarcely necessary to say," concluded Mr. Thompson, "that the general business outlook throughout the West is of the brightest. The outcome of this year's crop ensures a steady inflow both of desirable immigration and of capital for investment."

The Selkirk Centennial.

A delegation of representative business men left Winnipeg on a western trip this week to interview the Alberta and British Columbia governments in regard to financial aid to the Selkirk Centennial Exposition to be held in Winnipeg in 1912. The City of Winnipeg has itself undertaken to raise \$1,000,000 for the projected exposition, \$500,000 of which is to be granted by the City Council. His Excellency the Governor-General is in the midst of a two-weeks' stay in Winnipeg, following upon his two months' tour of the West. No one could display greater interest in the upgrowth of newer Canada than does Earl Grey. The West appreciates his evident desire to know it first-hand.

The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association are negotiating with the C.P.R. for the purpose of securing a lease of the company's Fort William Elevator. This was announced the other day by Mr. D. W. McCuaig, president of the association, when in Winnipeg attending to the details of the duplicate sampling system of farmers' cars that is now being operated under the association's supervision.

The matter of administration of Western school lands and funds by the provinces themselves, instead of by the Dominion Government, was discussed at a conference of the Ministers of Education for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta lately. A joint memorial will be sent to Ottawa urging this change. At present the Dominion pays the Province three per cent. on the funds held in trust, whereas the West claims that its provincial governments could easily invest all the money available at from 5½ to 7 per cent.

Dominion Government Crop Report.

Quality is the feature of the field crops of Canada as indicated by the reports of correspondents of the Census and Statistics Office at the end of September. Compared with reports at the same date last year, the average quality of spring wheat for Canada as a whole is 82.58 to 75 per cent. of a standard, of oats 83.97 to 75, of barley 81.22 to 71, of rye 81.29 to 73, of peas 81.34 to 63, of beans 92.32 to 75, of buckwheat 86.01 to 74, of mixed grains 89.28 to 75, of flax 86.97 to 68, and of corn for husking 86.77 to 82. In the Northwest Provinces especially, where the bulk of the field grain is produced, the averages of quality are uniformly high. Compared with last year, spring wheat in Manitoba is 87.28 to 81 per cent. of a standard, oats 86.07 to 73 and barley 85.39 to 68. In Saskatchewan wheat is 92.95 to 61, oats 94.01 to 67 and barley 91.23 to 58. In Alberta spring wheat is 89.05 to 77, oats 90.20 to 84 and barley 84.18 to 80. These high qualities applied to an output of 350,000,000 bushels of grain of all kinds at the highest market prices realized in a quarter of a century are an indication of the country's fortune reaped from the soil of the prairies this year.

THE CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY, of Toronto, is to make an application to the Ontario Government for permission to add \$2,500,000 to the capital stock of the company, thus bringing the company's total stock issue up to \$6,000,000.