

Stock Yards for Winnipeg

A great union stock yard in which the three trans-continental railways, C. P. R., C. N. R. and G. T. P., Swift & Co., of Chicago; Gordon, Ironside & Fares and Gallagher, Holman & La France, are known to be interested, is assured to Winnipeg in the immediate future. The project has been mooted for some time, but the action of several of the aldermen and live stock association in urging a civic stock yard has probably hurried the enterprise to a consummation.

The companies and firms interested have been moving quietly but effectively for several weeks past and have secured options on suitable land for the site in St. Boniface convenient to where the railways all cross or converge. The site will be ample for all requirements of the immediate future, comprising about 200 acres, and rivaling in extent the great yards of some of the big live stock centres. No better location could possibly have been secured, as it not only has unrivalled railroad facilities but is convenient to the business section of the city.

The land in question lies between the tracks of the C. P. R. and C. N. R., near the eastern city limits of St. Boniface, about two and a quarter miles from the Winnipeg city hall. Close to is the junction of the C. N. R.'s Dundee branch and the National Trans-continental. The union yards would, therefore, command facilities on three important railway systems.

The United States Crop Reporting Service

Everybody who takes any interest in agriculture, and most people on this continent do, whatever station they occupy in life, is concerned deeply in the condition and progress of the crops upon which most of our industries, directly or indirectly depend. Everyone who concerns himself with agriculture and follows crop conditions closely, knows that month by month, eleven times during the year, the Bureau of Statistics, a branch of the department of agriculture at Washington, issues a little bulletin showing the condition of the various agricultural crops throughout the country. This report is issued about the first of each month, and its coming is awaited with considerable interest, particularly by the grain trade, millers, grain dealers and speculators. A "bull" report sends prices skyward instantly, while report of improved conditions and better prospects cause a slump. The government crop report is an important element in the speculative market.

The first attempt on the part of the government to furnish information to the public on crop conditions was made in 1863. At the outset the service was of little account. Its reports, as a rule reached the public several months after the crop it was reporting on had been harvested and sold. Latterly, however, the system has been much enlarged and brought to such a stage of perfection that authentic information in respect to crops are in the hands of the public within a week of the last day of the month the report covers.

The organization for the reporting work is very complete, the information being obtained through a special field service, a corps of state statistical agents and a large body of voluntary reporters composed of county and township farmers, individual farmers, and with special crops like cotton, special correspondents. Seventeen travelling agents constitute the field service, each being responsible for a certain group of States. Their work is to travel over their assigned territory, keep themselves informed of conditions by personal observation and keep in touch with best informed opinion, reporting to the department monthly, or as required.

Working with them, but entirely an independent service, are forty-five State statistical agents, one in each State. These agents report their respective states as a unit direct to Washington each month. Each State agent maintains a corps of correspondents who report direct to him. It is upon these reports largely that the general report is based. The State statistical agent keeps in touch with crop conditions by constant personal observation. He receives reports from correspondents, summarizes and analyzes them in the light of his own knowledge of condition, and on the information compiles his own report to the department.

Each of these correspondents represents a county, and each is specially selected for the work. Several assistants, one supposed to represent each township, keeps the county correspondent informed of conditions throughout his district, so that the information which finally issues from the government presses in the form of a printed report, is the work of several thousand trained and generally experienced men, reporting through township, county and State to the national authorities.

It is becoming more evident each year that government crop reports must be issued more frequently than monthly. It is only a matter of time till we will have weekly, if not daily, reports sent out covering crop conditions. Facilities for communication are improving so rapidly that shortly we may expect to have sent out each morning an authentic summary of conditions throughout the whole country, very much the same as weather conditions are now reported and changes forecasted. Trade, as it has been developing in recent years, demands that information

in respect to the possible supply of the first commodities of the world shall be issued with more frequency.

Some may wonder, no doubt, why it is necessary to maintain a crop reporting service at all, what good it does the producer, or legitimate dealer in grains to know what the condition of supply are weeks and months before the crop can possibly be marketed. It costs the department a considerable sum each year to maintain the work. The question is, is it worth the cost? Would it make one cent's worth of difference to anybody if nothing were known of conditions till crops were cut and the grain harvested? Lots of people believe it wouldn't, but experience and common sense indicate it would. The price of agricultural commodities, of all commodities in fact, are governed by the law of supply and demand. Knowledge, therefore, of supply as early as practicable is essential. Such knowledge is essential to producer and consumer alike. Without some disinterested source of information as to conditions, reports of the wildest character in respect to crop prospects would be circulated and credited to a much larger extent than they now are. A group of speculators could get together, and by circulating the right kind of gossip, depress values away below what they should be, and the growers of the particular crop being "beared" lose in consequence. Or, on the other hand, a crowd of bull operators raising for their own purposes, scares of crop shortages, would increase the price legitimate users of that crop would require to pay manufacturers, millers and consumers, to a degree that would occasion about proportionate loss to them. It is in the interests, therefore, of legitimate trade that the true conditions of crop should be given to the public promptly.

MARKETS

The wheat market since last report shows little change. Prices have been well maintained with a strong, vigorous undertone that seems to token a maintenance of present values. During the week just closed there have been flurries that sent prices up a cent or two in a day, mostly, however, in speculative lines, and rumors enough, of one kind or another, bear or bull, but values are very nearly the same as a week ago. On Sept. 1st, with the opening of the new wheat season, price quotations in various market reports change of course to new wheat figures. Previously they all refer to old grain. There is a considerable difference, therefore, in the prices quoted in this week's report as compared with last, a slump apparently of ten or eleven cents, but new wheat values are stronger really than they were a week ago, and new wheat from this on will be the commodity always referred to.

Deliveries are beginning to strengthen up. During the later part of the week ideal weather prevailed for threshing and stacking in the Canadian West. In the American hard wheat belt the same conditions prevail. Export demand is good and despite unusually heavy Argentine deliveries during the week, an active enquiry for North American wheat continues from Liverpool. The same favorable weather conditions are reported from the continent of Europe. The world, take it all over, is in a condition to go bear on the market, and it would in a normal year. But the fact is that stores are so notoriously short.

In American speculations there is little to indicate how the speculative element is sizing the situation up. In Chicago, Armour is supposed to be selling by the million bushels, and other well known plungers are reported short. There seems, however, to be a sufficient number on the other side of the market to absorb everything that's being offered, and prices all the time going upwards. American exchanges are concerning themselves just now with corn more than with wheat. B. W. Snow's report for August on corn is bullish, the condition as he sums it up is worse than in any year since the short crop harvest of 1901. It is quite possible, of course, that the report is colored to suit the interests it is intended to serve, but it is the latest estimate of the corn situation, and shows a crop of 2,550,000,000 bushels, or just a trifle less than last year.

There is a tendency generally just now to bull oats. All the news practically that is filtering into the markets concerning this cereal reports a serious shortage, and indicates that oats probably will be rather scarcer than it was anticipated they would be a few months ago. If the corn crop is affected as seriously as Snow and other estimators would have us believe it is, there will be stronger inquiry shortly for oats and the grain may be lifted up with the advance of the other cereal. Wheat to a certain extent will be influenced in the same way. In other grains there is no change to note. Prices as we go to press are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1 northern, ... | 99 |
| 2 northern, ... | 96 |
| 3 northern, ... | 94 |
| No. 1 ... | 91 |
| No. 2 ... | 80 |
| No. 3 ... | 69 |
| Feed 1 ... | 63 |
| Feed 2 ... | 59 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| No. 2 white oats, ... | 40½ |
| No. 3 white oats, ... | 39 |
| No. 3 barley, ... | 49 |
| No. 4 barley, ... | 47 |
| Flax, N. W. ... | 110 |

OPTION QUOTATIONS.

| | Sept. | Oct. | Dec. | May |
|------------|-------|------|------|------|
| Wheat, ... | 99½ | 96½ | 94½ | 100½ |
| Oats, ... | 40½ | 39½ | ... | ... |
| Flax, ... | 118 | 116 | ... | ... |

PRODUCE AND MILL FEED.

| Net per ton— | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Bran, ... | \$19.00 |
| Shorts, ... | 21.00 |
| Chopped Feeds— | |
| Barley and oats, ... | 26.00 |
| Barley, ... | 25.00 |
| Oats, ... | 28.00 |
| Oatmeal and millfeed, ... | 19.00 |
| Wheat chop, ... | 22.00 |

BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS

| | | | |
|--|-----|---|----|
| Fancy fresh-made creamery bricks, ... | 23 | @ | 24 |
| Boxes, 14 to 28 lbs., ... | 22 | @ | 23 |
| DAIRY BUTTER— | | | |
| Extra fancy prints, ... | 20 | @ | 21 |
| Dairy, in tubs, ... | 16 | @ | 18 |
| CHEESE— | | | |
| Manitoba cheese at Winnipeg, ... | 11½ | @ | 12 |
| Eastern cheese, ... | 12½ | @ | 13 |
| EGGS— | | | |
| Manitoba, fresh-gathered, f. o. b. Winnipeg, ... | 22 | | |

VEGETABLES.

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Potatoes, per bu., ... | \$0.55 |
| Beets, per bu., ... | .60 |
| Celery, per doz., ... | .35 |
| Onions, per doz., ... | .10 |
| Carrots, per cwt., ... | .75 |
| Turnips, per cwt., ... | .50 |
| Cabbage, per ton, ... | 15.00 |

HAY.

| | | | |
|--|---------|---|---------|
| Prices are on the track in carload lots at Winnipeg. | | | |
| Prairie hay, baled, ... | \$ 6.00 | @ | \$ 7.00 |
| Timothy, ... | 12.00 | @ | 14.00 |
| Red Top, ... | 9.00 | @ | |
| Hay, in loads, local market, ... | 9.00 | @ | 10.00 |

HIDES.

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Prices based on Winnipeg delivery. | |
| Packer hides, No. 1, ... | 7½ to 8½ |
| Branded steer hides, ... | 7½ |
| Branded cow hides, ... | 6½ |
| Bull hides No. 1, ... | 6 |
| Bull hides, No. 2, ... | 5 |
| Country hides, ... | 7½ |
| Calf skins, ... | 9 to 10½ |
| Kip, ... | 7 to 8½ |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Manitoba wool, ... | 6 to 7 |
| Territory wool, ... | 8 to 9 |
| Seneca Root, ... | 25 to 30 |
| Beeswax, ... | 20 to 25 |

LIVESTOCK, WINNIPEG.

Deliveries at the local yards have fallen off considerably during the past week or so, due largely to the farmers being interested more in saving the harvest than marketing livestock. Rangers for export are passing through in steady volume and no change in price is quotable. Choice export stuff is selling for as high as \$4.00, but the bulk is running from \$3.75 to \$3.90 or so. There is no increased demand for butcher stock, and no change in value for this grade. Cows and heifers are selling for from \$2.50 to \$3.00. These are common females, not in any kind of fleshing particularly, some of them being better suited for soup kitchen use than anything else in the meat line for human consumption. Good butcher cattle are worth \$3.25 with a fairly active demand. Calves, \$3.50 to \$4.00; sheep quoted at \$5.75 and only a few small lots coming in.

Hogs are in demand. Bacon hogs sold last week for as high as \$6.50, and the indications are they will go higher still. A prominent commission man closely in touch with the trade expressed the opinion, the other day, that hogs would touch seven cents before another new moon appears in the sky. Inquiry for hogs is brisk, and deliveries, despite advancing prices continue to decline.

CHICAGO.

Unusually heavy deliveries characterized the cattle market at the Union Stock Yards last week. Sheep are steady, and hog receipts, on the whole, rather low. Prices are: Native beef cattle, \$3.60 to \$7.85; fat cows, \$3.00 to \$5.00; heifers, \$2.75 to \$4.85; bulls, \$2.60 to \$4.45; canners and cutters, \$1.75 to \$2.90; calves, \$3.25 to \$8.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 to \$4.35; western rangers, \$4.50 to \$6.10. Sheep, native ewes, \$2.00 to \$5.00; yearlings, \$4.00 to \$4.75; breeding ewes, \$4.00 to \$5.25; lambs, native, \$3.00 to \$6.00; Idaho's, \$5.25 to \$6.15; feeding lambs, \$4.50 to \$5.40. Hogs, \$6.15 to \$7.00.

TORONTO.

Export steers, \$4.80 to \$5.65; light export, \$4.75 to \$5.15; bulls, \$4.00 to \$4.50; prime butcher cattle, \$4.80 to \$5.10; medium, \$3.90 to \$4.25; calves, \$3.00 to \$6.50; export ewes, \$4.00 to \$4.25; lambs, \$5.00 to \$5.75; hogs, \$6.50.