

Conditions in the West

Wheat Crop in Good Shape. Grain and Flour Markets Steady. Saskatchewan Live Stock Commissions Recommendations.

Special Correspondence by E. CORA HIND, Commercial and Agricultural Editor, Free Press, Winnipeg, Man.

Winnipeg, June 30th, 1916.

During the past week the Free Press issued its second crop report, and in spite of the very cool June, conditions were very distinctly favorable. Abundance of moisture was reported everywhere, with the exception of two points, and neither of these were large grain producing areas. The damage from cutworms which promised to be serious in the early part of the season, proved very slight, due mainly to the heavy rains. There has been no damage from frost and while both gophers and weeds are bad, the gophers are not worse than other years, and the area of crop which would have to be sacrificed to the weeds is after all comparatively small. The wheat is evidently uneven in height, as reports of height varied from 3 to 24 inches. This is no doubt due to the fact that the seeding was carried on in some districts later than it should have been. The plant, however, is sturdy, is covering the ground well, and the only possible fault to find with it is that on June 27th, the date on which the report was issued, a very small percentage of it was in shot blade. This means that wheat will not generally be in head by the 12th of July, which is always regarded as very desirable. However, in the three days that have elapsed since the report was issued, the weather has become very warm, and there has been further heavy rains, and now all that is really needed is heat and drier weather with cool light winds. Speaking broadly of the whole West, the outlook is decidedly favorable for a good crop.

The increase in oat acreage is not so large as was anticipated in May. This is due mainly to the wet weather in the latter part of May. On the other hand, the acreage in barley is very much increased. Figures as to flax are on the whole indefinite, but indicate that the flax acreage is small.

The Wheat and Flour Markets.

The wheat market throughout the week has been wonderfully strong, in view of the crop conditions to the South and heavy local receipts. This has been due to the continued buying for the Allied Governments. This has gone on to some extent every day throughout the week, and the market the last day of the month closed with an advance for July of $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢, for October $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢, and for December $\frac{1}{8}$ ¢, and fluctuations for to-day have been extremely narrow. The gain for the last week of June was $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ cents for July, $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ cents for October and $\frac{5}{8}$ ¢ cents for December. Oats held remarkably steady all through the week, and were bought in large quantities.

Lake freights during the week have been very steady, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ each to Buffalo and bay ports, with 9 cents to Montreal. Ocean freights which were low at the beginning of the week have advanced and are not only higher but space is reported more limited.

FLOUR. There is nothing new to report in the flour trade, excepting that it is understood that an embargo has been placed on lake and rail shipments, owing to the congestion of traffic, but that all rail shipments are still open.

Considerable interest was aroused here by the report of the resignation of the Vice-President of the Maple Leaf Milling Co., but W. A. Milner, the Western Manager, who is also President of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, stated that the resignation was not unexpected, and that it would not in any way effect the business of the Company. It is understood here that Mr. Milner has recently become a considerably heavier stockholder in the company.

Grain Movement.

As indicated in last week's report, the Canadian Northern Railway Company promised the Railway Commission that they would be able to move the crop on their line without assistance, and they undertook to move 700 cars a day. However, they do not seem to have been able to maintain this rate, and it is now announced that an order has been issued by the railway commission for the C. P. R., to loan them 100 cars a day. This is especially to get the crop off the Goose Lake line. At the meeting of the Railway Commission held in Saskatoon, the C. N. R. agreed that if by the beginning of July they found they could not move the crop they would concur in a ruling of the Railway Commission to come to their assistance, and this is the order which has now been issued. It is understood that the ex-

tremely wet weather has been a factor in delaying the movement.

Saskatchewan Live Stock Commission.

The Royal Commission appointed by the Saskatchewan Government last year to enquire into the whole question of live stock shipping and marketing, held a session in Winnipeg to-day and took evidence from a number of men directly connected with the live stock industry. One of the points on which they are seeking as much data as possible is whether the live stock industry can be better administered if it were controlled by a Federal Board somewhat similar to the Canada Grain Commission. The Live Stock Commission did not display any great enthusiasm along this line, but it was evident from the persistent questioning of witnesses that the Commission is impressed with the fact that some such change would be desirable. They are also inquiring into the question of cattle loan business. The question of a live stock exchange at Winnipeg was also considered, and the commission men are evidently strongly in favor of this exchange receiving a charter. A charter was applied for about eighteen months ago, but the act asking for the charter would have granted such very wide power to the commission that it was strongly opposed by the producing end of the live stock interests.

Another matter which received very considerable attention was that of a charge of $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ of 1 per cent as a sort of insurance for loss through diseased cattle. This it was generally conceded was only a fair protection to the packers, but it seems the charge has also been made on stock and feeder cattle that they passed through the Winnipeg yards going West and South, and that when these cattle have again returned to the yards as a finished product they have paid the insurance again.

The members of the commission present were: The Hon. W. C. Sutherland, chairman; Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan; Dr. J. G. Rutherford, formerly Veterinary General for Canada, and now with the C. P. R. Natural Resources at Calgary; J. D. McGregor, a noted breeder, who represented Manitoba's interests, and W. A. Wilson, dairy commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan. The commission goes from Winnipeg to Calgary where it will hold a sitting, and from there to Edmonton.

CANADA'S AVAILABLE WHEAT SUPPLY.

The following estimate of Canadian wheat of last year's crop available for export as on June 24th last, has been compiled by Mr. W. A. Black, managing director of the Ogilvie Flour Mills, Limited:—

Northwest crop, 1915	365,000,000
Inspected to June 24	292,344,000
In transit not inspected	4,000,000
In interior elevators	23,000,000
Used for seed and feed	24,000,000
Ground in country mills not inspected	5,000,000
	348,344,000
Less for double inspections	3,000,000
	345,344,000
Still in farmers' hands	19,656,000
	365,000,000

Wheat Available, June 24, 1916.

Wheat in farmers' hands	19,656,000
In interior elevators	23,000,000
In transit not inspected	4,000,000
In transit east of Winnipeg	2,500,000
In transit on lakes	5,000,000
Canadian visible:	
Pt. Arthur and Ft. William	14,830,000
Eastern public elevators	9,358,000
	24,188,000
	78,344,000
Required by Canada, June 24-Sept. 30	13,000,000
Less private stocks not included in above memo	5,000,000
	8,000,000
Available for export, bushels	70,344,000

Empire Cotton Mills Welland, Ontario Limited

Manufacturers of

Textiles, Sail Duck, Bag Cloths
and
Seamless Bags

Write for Quotations

GRAIN AT THE HEAD OF LAKES.

Fort William, June 30th, 1916.

Statement of stocks in store in Terminal Elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur, on June 29, 1916, with receipts and shipments during the week:

Elevator.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Flax.
C. P. R. ..	1,714,211	447,969	91,376
Empire and				
Th. Bay ..	1,331,742	368,705	47,759	253,097
Consolidated	895,894	366,228	25,208	202,048
Ogilvie ..	1,208,680	101,190	20,889
Western ..	965,140	342,078	17,346	269,260
Grain G.				
G. Co. ..	1,556,939	528,726	55,624
Ft. William	549,111	327,453	41,528	28,734
Eastern ..	404,512	225,328	32,957
G. T. P. ..	1,595,364	565,814	49,294	137,350
C. N. R. ..	2,940,528	627,459	118,878	191,236
Horn and Co.	160,415	42,431	8,761	181,239
Dom. Govt.	1,537,823	345,083	46,158	142,385
Total	14,860,366	4,288,470	555,784	1,405,351
A year ago ..	2,399,718	994,590	86,756	1,273,801
Receipts ..	3,806,018	1,922,958	180,700	109,598
Ship. Lake ..	3,652,222	1,682,134	108,973	23,520
Ship. Rail ..	123,663	102,274	1,667	1,077

Stocks by Grade.

Wheat.	Oats.
No. 1 Hard	27,422
No. 1 Nor.	6,402,880
No. 2 Nor.	3,246,835
No. 3 Nor.	1,793,865
No. 4	1,502,821
Others	1,886,540
Total	14,860,366
Barley.	Flax.
No. 3 C.W.	304,441
No. 4 C.W.	150,093
Rejected	49,564
Feed	12,537
Others	39,147
Total	555,784
No. 1 C.W.	71,713
No. 2 C.W.	2,021,405
No. 3 C.W.	1,187,822
Ex. 1 Fd.	207,852
Others	799,675
Total	4,288,470
No. 1 N.W.C.	1,265,201
No. 2 C.W.	112,736
No. 3 C.W.	9,124
Others	18,289
Total	1,405,351

COTTON CROP CONDITION.

The New York Journal of Commerce estimates the percentage condition of the American cotton crop as 78.6 on June 23. This compares with 79.1 per cent a month ago, or a decline of 0.5 per cent. A year ago at this time condition was 79.7 per cent, while in 1914, the record crop year, it was 78.6 per cent, or the same as this year. The ten-year average is 79.7 per cent. Marked improvement occurred in Georgia and South Carolina, where increases of 6 per cent and 4.3 per cent are shown respectively. States showing substantial declines were North Carolina, 2.1 per cent; Alabama, 2.4 per cent; Mississippi, 3 per cent; Louisiana, 1.8 per cent; Texas, 2.5 per cent; Tennessee, 3.7 per cent, and Oklahoma, 1.8 per cent. Weather conditions have been somewhat mixed, but excessive rain has been the cause of the deterioration. Insects have not done much damage as yet, but boll weevils are very generally reported as appearing in large numbers. The season varies from one to three weeks late.