

## Crop Situation in Western Provinces

Need of New Rates, Better Transportation Facilities and More Storage Impressed upon Premier

The representatives of the Western Grain Growers' Associations, who have been at Ottawa conferring with the government with regard to the Grain Bill and other questions in which the Western farmers are vitally concerned, left for the West on Friday last. Before leaving the following memorandum with regard to the crop situation was presented to Premier Borden by R. McKenzie, secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association.

Competent judges estimate that 70,000,000 bushels of wheat alone await transportation, of which 8,000,000 bushels is damp or wet. Department of Agriculture, Saskatchewan, in a bulletin issued first January, estimate 20 million bushels all grain unthreshed all tough and wet and 12 million ready for shipment all tough and wet requiring treatment before being fit for warehousing.

### Fort William Drying Capacity

G.T.P., about 6 cars wheat per day; Port Arthur Elevator, about 6 cars wheat per day; Horn & Co., about 29 cars wheat per day; say 30,000 bushels per day. Stringent weather conditions would modify these results, probably cut down 25 per cent. or more. Duluth dryers have a capacity that might be increased at once to 40,000 bushels per day, so that Fort William, Port Arthur and Duluth plants worked to their fullest capacity and under the most favorable conditions, would take care of less than 2 million bushels per month of our "out of condition grain," 6 million in three months. What is to become of the rest? Ontario mills could mill considerable tough wheat. Ontario feeders could feed a quantity of feed grain to advantage, but neither millers nor feeders can secure a supply for lack of efficient transportation.

A grain man from Winnipeg, who investigated the probable quantity of our damp grain that could be cared for in Minneapolis, reports that dealers there believe they could absorb it all if not rushed to the market too quickly. One elevator company made a definite proposition they could take care of 1 million bushels or more. Another firm, who have good connections in Chicago and St. Louis, state a large percentage could be used in their market. A third could find a market in the south for considerable of this grain after it was treated in Minneapolis.

### Ruin to Whole Districts

Unless the railway companies can ship 6 to 7 million bushels south before the end of April it will mean ruin to whole districts rather than individuals, and would be a calamity the like of which never appeared in the Northwest. It has been charged that the agitation for south bound shipment is due to political reasons. The above facts substantiate that the demands are based on humane and economic causes.

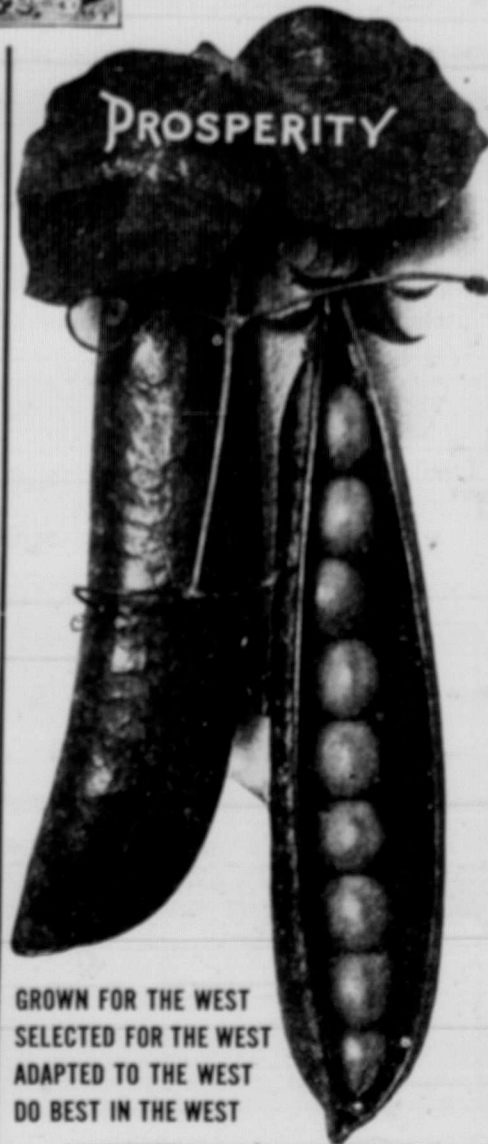
Due to the advent of gasoline engines and the perfecting of steam plowing outfits, land owners get large blocks of prairie broken at prices within the reach of section and half section farmers. Three million acres of new land were broken in the West in 1910 and 4,000,000 in 1911. Given proper transportation facilities, this acreage would be increased proportionately in 1912 and succeeding years, so that practically a new empire would be brought into cultivation within the next decade. Nearly 11,000,000 acres were in wheat the last crop, this will be increased by 1913 to 15 or 16,000,000 acres with a like increase in the

### DIRECT LEGISLATION FOR ALBERTA

The Alberta Legislature on Friday last unanimously endorsed the resolution of Charles Stewart, Liberal member for Sedgewick, calling upon the government to make an investigation of Direct Legislation and to introduce a measure at the next session bringing such into effect in Alberta. A number of members, both Liberal and Conservative, spoke in its favor.



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## MCKENZIE'S SEEDS PURE

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	Prices Postpaid—Pkts.	Oz.	Lbs.
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BEEF—McK's Extra Early	.05	.20	2.00
CABBAGE—McK's Winningstad	.05	.25	—
CARROT—McK's Oshart	.05	.20	—
CAULIFLOWER—McK's Early Snowcap	.25	3.00	—
CELERY—McK's White Plume	.05	.30	—
CORN—McK's White Cory	.05	—	.25
CUCUMBER—McK's Long Green	.05	.20	1.40
LETTUCE—McK's Prairie Queen	.05	.30	—
ONION—McK's Yellow Globe	.05	.15	1.50
ONION—McK's Red Wethersfield	.05	.20	2.00
PEA—McK's Manifold	.05	—	.50
PEA—McK's Prosperity	.05	—	.45
RADISH—McK's Rosy Gem	.05	.15	1.00
TOMATO—McK's First of All	.10	.35	—

### SEED GRAIN

	Prices	Prices	Prices
	L.b. Brandon	L.b. Brandon	L.b. Calgary
	Over 10 Bu.	Over 10 Bu.	Over 10 Bu.
COTTON BAG, 25c.			
GOLD STANDARD RED FIFE	Per Bu. \$1.65	Per Bu. \$1.60	Per Bu. \$1.85
TURKEY RED	1.75	1.70	1.75
DAWSON GOLDEN CHAFF	1.75	1.70	1.75
6-ROWED MENSURY BARLEY	1.20	1.10	1.20
SPELTZ	1.80	1.75	1.80
SPECIAL STRAIN BANNER OAT	.90	.85	1.00
NEW MARKET OAT	.85	.80	1.00
ABUNDANCE REGENERATED OAT	.85	.80	.95
VICTOR BLACK OAT	1.25	1.20	1.25
60 DAY OR JULY OAT	1.20	1.15	1.50
PRIMOST FLAX	3.55	3.50	3.85
COMMON FLAX	2.80	2.75	2.75

### GRASSES—CLOVERS—MILLETS

	Prices	Prices	Prices
	L.b. Brandon	L.b. Brandon	L.b. Calgary
	50 lbs.	100 lbs.	50 lbs.
COTTON BAGS, 25c.			
COMMON RED CLOVER	\$16.50	\$32.00	\$17.50
MAMMOTH RED CLOVER	16.50	32.00	17.50
ALSIKE CLOVER	13.50	26.50	14.50
TIMOTHY	12.50	24.00	12.00
WESTERN RYE GRASS	7.50	14.50	8.50
BROME GRASS	8.00	14.00	8.00
HUNGARIAN MILLET	3.00	5.50	3.55
GERMAN MILLET	3.00	5.50	3.55
COMMON MILLET	3.00	5.50	3.55
JAPANESE MILLET	3.20	6.25	4.50

acreage under oats, barley and flax. This acreage under normal weather conditions will provide over 200,000,000 bushels of wheat alone for export, excluding the increased quantity of oats, barley and flax. Unless some new avenue for marketing will be provided the crop of 1913 will be marketed with a loss, probably 15 to 20% of its value to farmers. The grain growing industry can stand no such abuse nor is it fair it should be asked to.

### Cars and Motive Power

As in the past, railway officials are profuse with promises. It takes cars and motive power to move crops. Between 1907 and 1909 two roads increased their efficiency for moving Western grain 93% and three roads only 19% as between 1909 and 1911. The three roads now delivering Northwest grain to Fort William and Port Arthur are incapable of preventing congestion in the fall months west of the Lakes. With only a single track outward to the east nothing but calamitous congestion can result. There seems no relief in sight for the immediate future excepting the completion of the Transcontinental Railway eastward in time to move part of the crop of 1912. This should be insisted on by the government even if contractors were bonused to a large extent to enable them to do so. There is no hope of relief from the Hudson Bay Railway for moving the crop of 1913 or even 1914, the only adequate

relief that can be figured for the marketing of the 1912 or 1913 crops is access to the markets to the south of us.

### More Storage Needed

In the matter of providing storage and handling facilities at the Lake front. Immediate steps should be taken to provide more equipment and terminal facilities for unloading cars and storing of grain. The elevator facilities in Montreal, the distribution equipment at bay port points and West St. John want to be modernized. This is especially true of West St. John, which practically is the winter outlet for all Northwest grain, containing only two elevators, that of the C.P.R. and Intercolonial, both wooden structures. It is something alarming to contemplate what would happen in event of these facilities being burned down during the winter season.

### SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS LOST \$17,000,000

Regina, Sask., Feb. 10.—The loss to the farmers of Saskatchewan this year on export wheat through the failure of the people to pass reciprocity and thus open the American market is indicated in a special table of the department of agriculture at nearly \$17,000,000. This is the difference in the prices between the grain on the Winnipeg and Minneapolis markets, and does not include the grain which may be lost through lack

of transportation facilities and outlets. The figures were reached through investigations made by Deputy Minister Mantle at both Winnipeg and Minneapolis. On an average high class wheat, showed a spread of 11 cents on 25,000,000 bushels, lower grades 20 cents on 20,000,000 bushels; oats, 11 cents on 25,000,000 bushels; barley, 42 cents on 35,000,000 bushels; and flax, 26 cents on 7,000,000 bushels; a total of \$16,790,000.

### CHARLES DICKENS

Born February 7, 1812

Lord Rosebery has this to say of the inimitable author of "The Pickwick Papers," whose centenary is celebrated this week:

"I do not think the literature of the early days of Queen Victoria or of the reign of William IV. was very exhilarating; but now anyone who tastes Dickens, and I suppose from the sale of his works the number of people who taste Dickens must be almost coterminous with the races of the world, and who feels depressed, who feels unhappy, who feels physically unwell, has only to take down his 'Pickwick' and read a few pages, possibly that he almost knows by heart already, and he will find himself indulging in that innocent and healthy exhilaration of which I spoke."

THE SEEDS THAT IMBUE OLD AND YOUNG WITH A DESIRE FOR AGRICULTURE